

The Baptist Record

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Baptist Record article sends two to teach sewing on St. Lucia Island

By Betty Smith

When Dot Davis and Jannette Hutchinson went on a mission trip to St. Lucia Island in the Caribbean in August, several "firsts" were involved. It was the first time either had participated in a mission trip; it was the first time Jannette had ever flown; it was the first time either of them had taught a class in homemaking skills. In spite of the "firsts," Dot and Jannette taught classes involving more than 300 women and girls (and one man) at the Hewanoora Baptist Centre in Vieux Fort, a town of about 9,000 persons located in the southern part of St. Lucia.

Jannette Hutchinson lives in Yazoo City, where her husband is minister of education and administration at First Baptist Church. She says, "When the **Baptist Record**, with the announcement of the need for the mission project, came that Thursday, I knew it was for me." When her husband came home a little later, she waved the paper at him and announced she was going to St. Lucia.

Dot Davis, who lives in Avon, near Greenville, did a little more pondering before she made her wishes known to her husband. Once the decision was made though, there were no second thoughts.

Dot and Jannette are both skilled in all areas of homemaking, and after consultation with missionaries Jon (a Mississippian), and La Homa Singleton in St. Lucia, it was decided that Dot would teach classes in knitting and crocheting, and Jannette would teach sewing (dress making, etc.) and cake decorating.

Supplies for their classes had to be

carried to St. Lucia. Jannette took a sewing machine, donated by a man in Jackson, and Dot took all the materials needed for her classes, including a truck full of yarn. Most of the materials were donated by Dot and Jannette's churches, First, Greenville, and First, Yazoo City. The Yazoo associational WMU also assisted with the material, as did many individuals. Materials not used in the classes were left at the Center to be used later.

A 12' x 22' room served as classroom for both Dot and Jannette — Dot taught in one end and Jannette in the other end. Dot says, "With 15 to 30 in each of our classes, sometimes it became terribly hot in the room — there was no air-conditioning, only one small fan and one small window. But the women came back day after day." The two-hour classes were held from 9:30-11:30 in the morning; 2:30-4:30 in the afternoon; and 7-9 at night. Dot says, "There was little time for sight-seeing, but we went there to work and that's what we did."

On Sunday Dot and Jannette visited the three Baptist churches on the island. At Saltibus there were about 23 present; at LaBorie about 19; and at Vieux Fort there were about 40 persons inside and another 50 milling around outside the church.

Jannette says, "When we arrived at the church in Vieux Fort, I was surprised to see a large sound system in such a small church. But when people began to gather outside the church, I understood. With the windows open, those outside could hear everything. When the offering plate was passed, it was handed out the



On an island in the Caribbean, Barbara Hutchinson teaches cake decorating.

windows, and people in the yard put in their offerings."

The population of St. Lucia is about 90% Catholic, and it is difficult for a person to withstand the pressure of a Catholic family and the Catholic church to associate openly with Baptists. Standing outside a Baptist church is not as daring as sitting inside the church and participating in the worship service. Of the number attending the three churches, only a few are baptized believers.

On their last night in Vieux Fort, Dot and Jannette had a party for all the students. Jannette used that opportunity to tell the girls and women why she and Dot had come, at their own expense, to Vieux Fort. "We came because of our love for Christ and our concern for you," she said.

Dot feels that three important things came from their mission trip: "We showed the people what Baptists are like; our classes encouraged the women to come to the Centre; and the

women and girls learned that it's fun to be a Christian."

Journeymen Paula and Tom Stokes from North Carolina work with missionaries Jon and LaHoma Singleton at the Centre in Vieux Fort. Recently, Paula wrote to Dot and Jannette, saying, "We're already seeing the results of your hard work with the ladies and girls here. We had a couple of new faces at Bible study on Thursday and five came to sew on Friday morning! I believe they feel more 'at home' in the centre than before, and that's a result of the time and love you gave them. We are grateful you cared enough to come and give of yourself so completely."

Now that all the "firsts" are behind, Dot and Jannette plan to make another mission trip next summer — to Vieux Fort to work again with the women and girls at the Hewanoora Baptist Centre.

Betty Smith is on the staff of the state WMU Department.

Satan loses in Senate

WASHINGTON (BP) — The U.S. Senate has voted to take away tax-exempt status from any cult or organization that promotes witchcraft or satanism.

Sen. Jesse Helms, R-N.C., proposed the action as an amendment to the Treasury, Postal Service and General Appropriations Act of 1986. The amendment stipulates no tax exemption be allowed for any "cult, organization or other group that has as a purpose, or that has any interest in, the promoting of satanism or witchcraft."

Helms' measure, adopted without objection on a voice vote, defines satanism as "the worship of Satan or the powers of evil" and witchcraft as "the use of sorcery or the use of supernatural powers with malicious intent."



Barbara Hutchinson helps a sewing student on St. Lucia thread her machine.

Committee hears about "porn rock"

By David Wilkinson

WASHINGTON (BP) — A Senate subcommittee investigating sexually explicit contemporary music heard widely differing testimony from music industry spokespersons and a newly formed parents group on the potential dangers of "Porn Rock" songs.

The intense debate between music industry representatives and Parents Music Resource Center (PMRC) leaders Susan Baker, wife of the Treasury Secretary, and Tipper Gore, wife of Sen. Albert Gore, D-Tenn., centered on the texts of contemporary songs which glorify rape, incest, and suicide.

Gore, a Baptist and member of the Subcommittee on Communications which held the hearings, also participated in the highly charged dialogue.

"Some say there is no cause for concern. But we believe there is," Mrs. Baker warned. "Teenage pregnancy and teenage suicide rates are at epidemic proportions. The U.S. has the highest teenage pregnancy rate of any developed country—96 out of 1000," she said. "It is our contention that pervasive messages aimed at children which promote and glorify suicide, rape and sado-masochism have to be numbered among the contributing factors."

Mrs. Gore told the group the issue is much larger than violent and sexually explicit lyrics. "It is one of ideas and ideals, freedom and responsibility in our society. Clearly there is a tension here and in a free society there always will be. We are simply asking that these corporate and artistic rights be exercised with responsibility, sensitivity and some self restraint. Especially since young minds are at stake," she said.

Members of PMRC are calling on the music industry to do three things voluntarily: label records with a warning about content, make lyrics available to the consumer before purchase and set up a panel to establish policy guides.

Although no legislation has been introduced, the focus of the hearing was an appeal for the music industry to deal voluntarily with the issue.

David Wilkinson writes for the SBC Christian Life Commission.



Dot Davis scrutinizes the work of her knitting pupil on St. Lucia Island.

Editorials by don mcgregor

Chautauqua's mystique

The voices of 1,000 senior adults were singing "Amazing Grace." It was a moment that I might never experience again, so I stood on the second level of the platform steps and watched. There was no point in my trying to sing.

I thought, "Here is a group of folks who really know what this song is all about. They've been through the dangers, toils, and snares. They recognize that it is not too long until 10,000 years absolutely will have no significance. They know that the sun's brightness will have nothing on them throughout eternity. They know about grace."

It was the senior adult chautauqua last week at Ridgecrest. I went expecting a blessing because I had heard a great deal about these conferences. I went, however, to be an observer. Instead, I became a participant.

It is obvious that there is something different about these chautauquas. There are 10 of them each year, and every one is special. My interest was not only in experiencing a chautauqua to see what it is all about but also to try to determine what makes them the way they are. It also became obvious, as the week sped by, that the people who attend the chautauquas have to be the main ingredient. The fellowship that they experience among themselves is the primary drawing card. I asked several, and this was the recurring theme.

The program planners, however, must be given a great deal of credit; and here is where another intangible begins to enter the mix. A love relationship begins to take place between the participants and the program personalities.

Such was surely the case with the chautauqua that I just attended. And Mississippians formed the nucleus for the faculty and program group. The preacher for the week was Robert Marsh, pastor of Second Ponce de Leon Church in Atlanta. He is a native of Jackson and was pastor of several churches in Mississippi before leaving the state. The song leader was Ken Miller, minister of music at First Church, Natchez. The pianist was Irene Martin, pianist at First Church, Richland; music evangelist; and co-owner of a music publishing business, Message Music/Colmar Publishing Company. The organist was Dot Pray, organist at Colonial Heights Church, Jackson, and keyboard specialist for the Church Music Department. In addition, Patti Dent of Holly Springs, former Mississippi Woman's Missionary Union President, was a conference leader; and the senior adult choir of Parkway Church, Jackson, presented a senior adult musical under the direction of Gayle Garrett.

There were other Mississippians there. Parkway church had 42, most of them in its senior adult choir. Ken Miller brought 39 others with him. First Church, Brandon, sent 27. This means that there were at least 113 from Mississippi out of the total registration of 1,000 who went to the chautauqua. And in addition to this sizeable group from Mississippi at Ridgecrest (more than 10 percent of the total), another group of senior adults from Mississippi went with Norman Rodgers, senior adult consultant for the Mississippi Church Training Department, to Glorieta for another chautauqua.

The love relationship between pro-

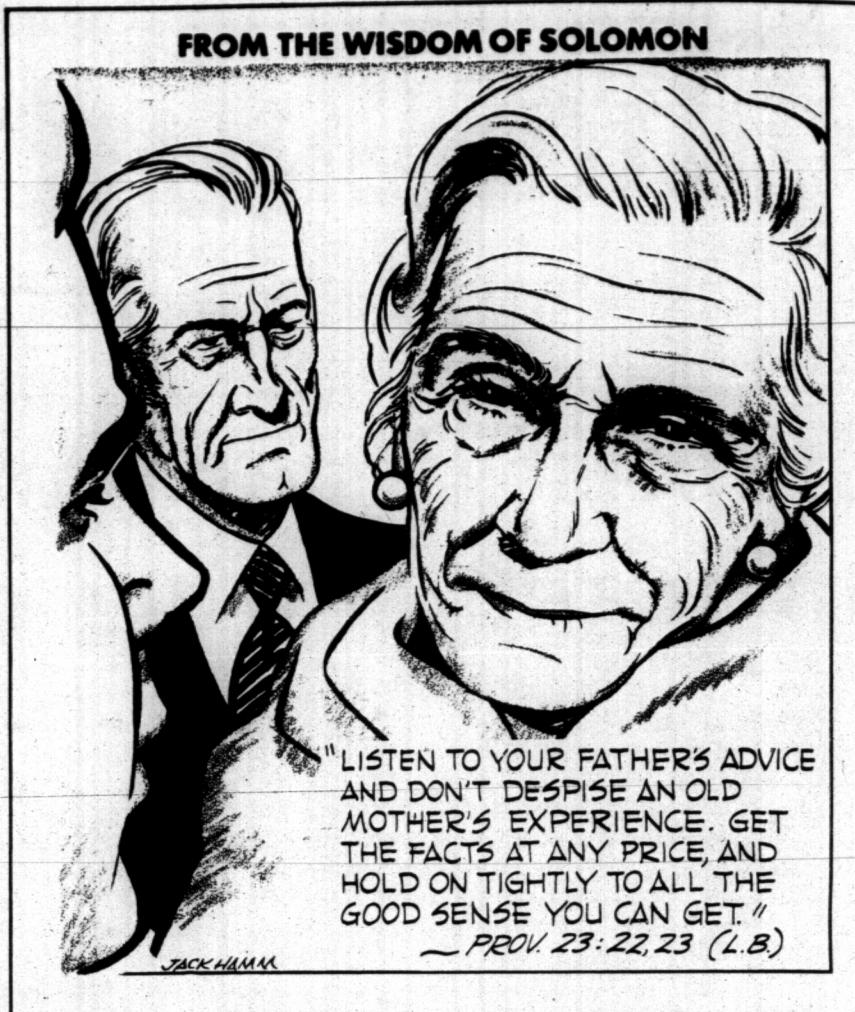
gram personalities and the participants was obvious from the beginning. The people on the program were inspired to do their best because of the support and high level of interest of the participants. Then, because the program offerings were so outstanding, the participants loved them all the more. So a spiraling relationship was established that by the end of the conference had evolved into a very close association between program people and participants.

During a rare lull in proceedings, I walked around and asked several what it was that they appreciated most about the chautauqua. The answer was, invariably, a great program.

The second item on the list of things appreciated was the fellowship—the opportunities to meet people from all over the country. This also was evident from the beginning. The chautauquans go there to enjoy themselves, and they accomplish that purpose beautifully.

Item No. 3 in appreciation points is the ability to compare notes on what is going on in other churches. No. 4 relates to the inspirational beauty of Ridgecrest. No. 5 is significant. It is the fact that a chautauqua is not like a convention such as that of a service organization where a participant meets many different kinds of people. At a chautauqua all of the people have something in common—they are all Christians.

So it all boils down to the fact that the people themselves are the main ingredient. And why are they so happy? Irene Martin, who has been pianist for a number of chautauquas, said it is because "they have it made." They don't have to prove anything to



anybody. They don't have to worry about problems and frustrations that come with jobs. Their cares are behind them, and they are enjoying life, she said.

This obviously is true. And the great thing about a chautauqua is that they spread their happiness, interest, and vitality to all those about them.

And that's what makes a chautauqua tick.

The program is important—very much so. The people wouldn't be there if the programs didn't continue to be first class. Once there, the people begin to exude the spirit that makes the program people glad to be a part of the conference.

It must be pointed out that in this atmosphere of exaltation the program people performed their hearts out.

And Mississippians justly can be proud of their representatives who were part of the program group.

The preacher, Robert Marsh, though no longer a resident of Jackson, was very well received. Mrs. Dent also had large crowds for her conferences.

The music team from Mississippi was one that would make all citizens of the state proud. On the last night, Ken Miller, Dot Pray, and Irene Martin, fashioned and presented a program of music. Simply put, it was outstanding and received a well-deserved standing ovation from the crowd.

It was a fitting climax to a wonderful week. I'm glad I was there.

Pictures and more explanatory material will follow next week.

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Guest opinion . . .

The man behind the peace plan

By Kevin Jones

JACKSON, Miss. (RNS)—Almost unknown in Southern Baptist circles outside Mississippi before this year, Charles Pickering has become one of the architects of an effort that may bring peace to the nation's largest evangelical denomination.

Pickering, a lawyer from Laurel, Miss. and president of the Mississippi Baptist Convention, initiated the process that led to formation of a 22-member peace committee that will report to the Southern Baptists' 1986 annual meeting in Atlanta.

He is one of only six lay people (two are women) on the peace-making panel whose initial meeting Aug. 5-6 has drawn substantial interest across the denomination.

The committee, established by the Southern Baptists' June convention in Dallas, has been endorsed by moderate and conservative forces who have often been able to agree only on where they would hold their next feud.

A man without polished denominational connections, a layman suddenly in the midst of a preachers' fight,

Charles Pickering has spearheaded a drive that many say has a good chance of pulling Baptists from the brink of civil war.

Pickering, who rose from relative obscurity in church circles to become one of the key players in the 14-million-member denomination, was first involved in secular politics.

He was one of two Republican state senators and a former state party chief during the GOP's stormiest days in Mississippi, when supporters of Gerald Ford and Ronald Reagan were at each other's throats. Pickering's role was that of mediator.

A master of legislation by compromise and amendment and with years of practice in breaking up dogfights in the state Republican party, he got involved in the Baptist fight only last November when Mississippi Baptists' feud at their state convention hit the newsstands.

"The image we were projecting in the press last year was not a good witness to the world of what Christians are," Pickering said. "I had been aware of the problem in the

denomination for some time, but the positions people were taking in the newspaper seemed to escalate the controversy. That kind of thing hadn't happened in the newspaper before; it had been a family problem."

Besides issuing an immediate plea to both factions to cool their heated charges and countercharges, Pickering and Earl Kelly, Mississippi state convention executive secretary, invited a group of leaders from both conservative and moderate camps to Pickering's farm for a cookout in February.

The all-day prayer-and-talk session "didn't change people's feelings on the issues, but it helped the attitude in that state," Pickering said.

Conservatives had complained they were never asked to speak at the state Baptist convention. Soon after the farm cookout, it was announced that conservatives would highlight next year's state meeting.

After that limited but encouraging success, Pickering wondered if a similar low-key style of negotiation might work on the national level. Calls

to nine other state Baptist convention presidents produced a similar gathering in April in St. Louis.

Because of pervasive suspicions that accompany the Southern Baptist feud, it was necessary to call each man before he received his written invitation to voice assurances that there was no hidden agenda. "We had to stipulate that the meeting was not aligned (with either faction) and that we had no ax to grind," said Pickering.

He hoped only to issue a call for a cooling of tempers and a halt to name calling. Bill Hickem, president of the Florida Baptist Convention and pastor of Riverside Church in Jacksonville, Fla., came up with the idea of the bipartisan committee to probe the problems with the denomination.

Pickering and his companions then had to come up with a list of prospective panel members who would have credibility with entrenched leaders at both ends of the spectrum, yet be stacked with acceptable middle-of-the-roaders concerned more with

(Continued on page 5)

Victims volunteers say:

"We'll never forget it"

By Tim Nicholas

The Mississippi Baptist Disaster Relief Unit returned home this past weekend, as did the other three stateside Baptist units, leaving Mexican disaster victims with an estimated 150,000 meals under their belts.

The four state Baptist groups, including Texas, Oklahoma, and Louisiana, constructed portable kitchens which they left in place for Mexican Baptists to operate in their stead.

Mississippi volunteers served hot meals for 12 days arriving in Mexico City with the units from Louisiana and Oklahoma. Texas' mass feeding kitchen had arrived a few days before.

A total of 26 Mississippi Baptist men served on the unit which was parked at a sports complex which was transformed into a relief station for victims of the earthquakes which destroyed a major portion of downtown Mexico City.

"The thing that impressed me was the way people appreciated what we did," said Ronnie Ballard, who served on the unit. Ballard is a former missionary to Paraguay, serving now as pastor of Trinity Church, Carthage.

Other volunteers echoed Ballard's sentiments. "I just wish everybody could have stood in our shoes," said Buck Fortner of Lambert, a dirt contractor. Fortner led the men in a Sunday School lesson in the motor home as they traveled between Laredo and Beaumont, Tex., on Sunday, helping him to continue a seven year record of teaching every Sunday.

"I received more than I gave," said Steve Griffin, another dirt contractor from Houston who stayed with the unit during its two week visit to Mexico. Earlier this year Griffin said he "began feeling the Lord wanted me to

do mission work," he said. Griffin had asked his pastor to listen whether Baptists were sending anyone to Mexico to help out. They were and he went.

Griffin said the men became very close to the Mexican people despite language barriers, "especially the children. It was an emotional experience to leave them," he said.

Griffin and the others said that it only took a day or so of being in Mexico City for the ice to break in relationships with people. It happened "when those people found out we were volunteers, we weren't being paid, and not with the U.S. government," said Griffin.

Truck driver Garvin Herrington of Philadelphia said he received blessings "far beyond anything I'll be able to explain." He said he was in the cab of the unit when two young people came by obviously wanting to look inside. He gave a quick tour and, along with missionary help, a small group gathered and five young people accepted Christ as Savior there. Rita Herrington, Garvin's wife, said that witnessing as a truck driver was not new for Garvin. "He carried his Bible and witnessed at truck stops," through the years, she said.

Jim Didlake, on site coordinator of the unit, and Brotherhood Department consultant, said that local churches have been assigned to the various locations where the Baptists served and will continue in a direct follow up to witness efforts.

Ballard said the impact of the Baptist presence was great. He said a government official raised his trunk lid to show off a Bible that representative Jim Philpot (see separate story on this page) had given him. The man took the volunteers to his home to

meet his family.

First Church, Lambert had purchased 100 Spanish New Testaments which Fortner took across the border to give away. At customs, one official kept handling the Bibles and Ballard, who speaks Spanish, stepped over to Fortner to explain that the man only wanted a Bible for himself. Fortner immediately obliged.

The volunteers said that the Mexican people everywhere they went told them "We'll never forget it." The volunteers, to a man said they feel the same way.

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Mexican volunteers prepare a meal, Mexican style.

The Baptist Record

Baptist representative killed in Mexico City

By Mary Jane Welch and Erich Bridges

MEXICO CITY, Mexico (BP) — Southern Baptist representative James Philpot was shot and killed in his car Oct. 11 by two men in another car which sideswiped him in traffic.

Philpot, who was shot in the head, died immediately. An electrician in the car with him was hospitalized with gunshot wounds in the abdomen. As of Oct. 14 no arrests had been made.

Philpot, a native of Polk County, Ark., was chairman of the organization of 102 Southern Baptist representatives in Mexico. He and his wife, the former Jurhee Sheffield of Childress, Texas, had been in Mexico since 1967. He was 46. He had been working with Baptist Disaster Relief volunteers, including the Mississippi group.

Southern Baptist representative Guy Williamson, who arrived at the scene soon after the shooting, said witnesses told police they saw a gray or light blue Volkswagen attempt to pass Philpot on the right at high speed. There wasn't enough room between the right curb and the car Philpot was driving, so the two cars scraped. Molding torn from the left side of the Volkswagen was lying on the ground when he arrived, Williamson said.

Police reports said the two cars stopped and the two men in the Volkswagen got out. One of them approached the right side of the car Philpot was driving and fired through the window. The Mexican electrician was struck twice in the stomach. A single bullet entered Philpot's jaw and came out through his neck.

Medical personnel said Philpot "died immediately," Williamson said, and "perhaps never knew what happened." Empty shell casings and bullet holes in the car roof indicated five or more shots were fired. The two men in the Volkswagen left before police arrived.

The electrician remained in a Mex-

ico City hospital Oct. 14, but Williamson did not know his condition. Mexican Baptist leaders had visited the man during the weekend and were staying in touch with his situation, he said.

"As far as we know right now it was not premeditated," Williamson said.

According to Sarah Beth Short, Southern Baptist representative from Fort Worth, Texas, who was working at the mission office with Philpot that afternoon, he left the office to go to the home of a ham radio operator to make a call, but discovered his car door lock had been removed and the ignition tampered with.

He returned to the office to get keys for the car assigned to Jean Poe, a volunteer from Salisbury, N.C., and went to get an electrician to fix his ignition.

Ten or 15 minutes later, said Short, she and Poe heard noises down the street. She went out to investigate and saw police cars and a gathering crowd about a block away around a car that resembled Poe's.

As she approached, Short confirmed it was Poe's car and saw two bodies lying in the street, one covered. Recognizing Philpot's clothes, she identified the body for police and went with a police officer to notify Mrs. Philpot.

Southern Baptist representative Lee Baggett, a physician from Vernon, Texas, arrived at the condominium complex where the Philpots and several other Baptist representatives live just as Short and the police arrived to tell Mrs. Philpot. He accompanied her to the site of the shooting.

Philpot was the eighth Southern Baptist missionary murdered on the mission field. The last missionary murdered was Archie G. Dunaway Jr., a Mississippian, who was killed by guerrillas in 1978 during Zimbabwe's

war for independence. The Foreign Mission Board has more than 3,500 missionaries assigned around the world.

Burial was Oct. 13 in Guadalajara, at Mrs. Philpot's wish. "Jurhee said that Jim loved Mexico so much and he'd lived here and worked here and given his life and it would be inconsistent that he should be taken back to the United States to be buried," Williamson said. The Philpots earlier had buried a son in Guadalajara who died shortly after birth.

"Nobody can replace Jim. Pray for us," Williamson said.

Besides his wife, Philpot is survived by three daughters: Jill, who lived

(Continued on page 7)

Stanley drops MBC sermon

ATLANTA (BP) — Southern Baptist Convention President Charles F. Stanley has cancelled appearances outside regular church responsibilities until Jan. 1 because of doctor's orders. This includes cancelling his appearance at the Mississippi Baptist Convention, Nov. 13.

Stanley, pastor of First Church, Atlanta, told Baptist Press he "picked up a little something" when he drank river water during a hunting trip to Alaska.

"I am feeling fine, but the doctor suggested strongly that I curtail my activities until the end of the year," Stanley said.

He indicated he will continue to preach at the church and to conduct his television ministries until the end of the year. "I plan to fulfill obligations at evangelism conferences in January and February," he added.

Pastors' conference set before Convention

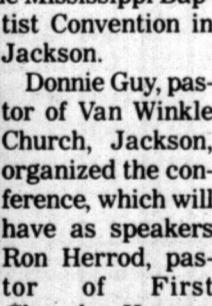
By Tim Nicholas

A pastors' conference will take place the morning of Nov. 11 just prior to the opening of the Mississippi Baptist Convention in Jackson.

Donnie Guy, pastor of Van Winkle Church, Jackson, organized the conference, which will have as speakers Ron Herrod, pastor of First Church, Kenner,



Guy



Herrod

La.; Gerald Harris, pastor of Colonial Heights Church, Jackson; and Guy Guy said the theme will be the "Good News America — God Loves You," which is the name of the organized

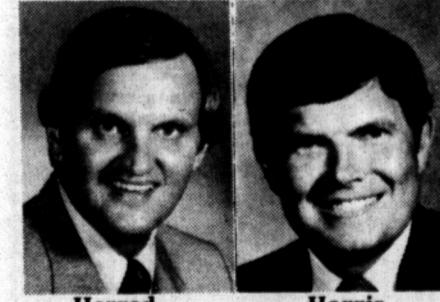
Southern Baptist simultaneous revival plans for next year.

Guy said that pastors attending the meeting will elect officers and try to make an annual event out of it. Guy said the president would have the authority to plan future programs. He said he was offering his church as the annual site for the conference.

"We're not trying to do anything political," said Guy. "It's not geared toward any certain factions—just a time of singing, preaching, and praising the Lord before we go into convention time."

The program begins 9:30 a.m. and concludes at 12:30. The convention begins at First Church, Jackson, at 1:50 p.m.

Guy said an aim for the program will be to provide a platform for pastors who are getting results. For instance, he said, Herrod's church gained 455 by letter and 282 by baptism in the past church year. Colonial Heights Church had 279 additions, with 76 baptisms in the church year; and Van Winkle, in the four months Guy has been there has had 173 additions, 60 of them baptisms, he noted.



Harris

MC president questions proposed 'Grove City' law

By Kathy Palen

WASHINGTON (BP) — Two bills before the U.S. Senate could force private college into a quasi-public status, the president of Mississippi College testified during a recent Senate hearing.

Lewis Nobles, appeared before the Senate Labor and Human Resources Committee during a hearing on the impact of so-called Grove City legislation upon private education.

The U.S. Supreme Court ruled in February, 1984, that Grove City (Pa.) College — and in essence all private colleges and universities — must indicate compliance with federal anti-sex discrimination laws or lose indirect, as well as direct, federal aid. The court stated financial grants to students — such as Guaranteed Student Loans — amount to subsidies of a college, placing that school under federal anti-sex discrimination laws and regulations.

The Supreme Court added, however, that the college must show anti-sex discrimination compliance only in the specific programs receiving federal assistance rather than in all of its programs.

Two current Senate bills, the "Civil Rights Amendments Act" and the "Civil Rights Restoration Act," propose to overturn the high court's Grove City decision.

Nobles testified the Civil Rights Restoration Act "invents, attempts to legitimate and threatens to impose, an unprecedent and pervasive regulatory scheme upon private institutions on grounds that they have been extended federal financial assistance."

He said the bill's title is inappropriate in that it "does not restore anyone's civil rights" and that it indicates there had been a legal consensus about Title IX of the Civil Rights

Bi-vocational meet planned at Tiak-O'Khata

A bi-vocational conference is scheduled for Oct. 18-19 at Lake Tiak-O'Kata, Louisville. Registration will be on Friday, Oct. 18, at 5 p.m., with a complimentary meal at 6 p.m. The conference will end at 1:15 p.m. Saturday.

This conference is designed for ministers who hold additional secular jobs, and for directors of missions. Hollis Bryant is coordinator of the meeting, and consultant for the Cooperative Missions Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

Those contributing devotionals, messages, music, and conference leadership to this meeting will include Jerry Stevens, Dan and Mera Hall, Hollis and Eunice Bryant, Thurman and Mary Allred, Julius Thompson, and Guy Henderson.

All directors of missions and bi-vocational pastors are invited to attend. For further information contact Hollis Bryant at 968-3800.

Act of 1972 prior to the Grove City decision. He added the bill also employs "extremely loose and confused wording."

The proposed bills would broaden the coverage of Title IX from "program specific" to "institution wide." In addition, the bills would broaden the coverage of Title IX without also broadening the existing exemption where Title IX is in direct conflict with religious tenets of a covered school.

Nobles testified a broadened religious exemption is needed. He said the proposed phrase "institution which is controlled by a religious organization" should be amended to encompass any educational institution "which is an integral part of the religious mission of a church, or which . . . is religious in purpose and character." He added the term "tenet" leaves broad areas of religious life unprotected and should be amended to include "religious tenets, convictions, practices, or ministry" of the institution.

Addressing the issue of "sex discrimination" in the special context of religious institutions, Nobles said: "The observance of a religious tenet or conviction commanding sexual differentiation is a matter of fundamental

religious liberty."

During his testimony, Nobles submitted resolutions adopted by the Southern Baptist Convention and Association of Southern Baptist Colleges and Schools relating to the proposed legislation.

He concluded with an argument against the "expansion of the spending power of the federal government as a tool of coercion."

"American colleges and universities may not have a 'right' to receive government-provided aid to subsidize education," Nobles stated, "but, once the government decides to do that, it may not condition the receipt of such aid upon the surrender of the schools' First Amendment rights without a clear nexus between the imposition of the condition and the intent of the program itself."

Nobles appeared before the Senate committee as part of a three-member panel. Other panel members were Charles McKenzie, president of Grove City College; and Bruce Hafen, dean of Brigham Young University Law School and president of the American Association of Presidents of Independent Colleges and Universities.

Palen is newswriter with the Washington Bureau of Baptist Press.

Nobles says law treads on religious freedom

By Tim Nicholas

In an interview with the press, Mississippi College President Lewis Nobles explained that the bills he spoke against in Washington would not specifically injure Mississippi Baptist institutions of higher education. However, other religious institutions that do not fit the wording of the bills which are not controlled by a denomination, such as Notre Dame and Liberty Baptist College, would not qualify for the exemptions that are offered such schools as Mississippi College, Blue Mountain College and William Carey College.

Nobles, a member of the public policy committee of the Association of Southern Baptist Colleges and Schools, by which affiliation he went to Washington, said that "when you impinge on the religious liberties of any one group, you impinge on all of them."

He said that the Southern Baptist Convention passed a resolution in 1984 opposing the language of the Civil Rights Act of 1984 which would define religious institutions as being "recipients" of federal financial assistance. And the Association of Southern Baptist Schools and Colleges opposed in resolution both of the proposed bills on the same basis.

Nobles, offered what he said was an extreme example. "If you had one student enrolled under the GI

Bill, that would transform you to government review—all programs, all faculty."

Said Nobles, "The new law needs to spell out the religious exemption." He said that as the law is written "basically the college would have no right to interfere with the moral code." For example, if a college had "a female student who became pregnant, unmarried, you could not dismiss her," said Nobles.

Also, if the male dorms are not locked at night, the female dorms could not be locked either, he said.

Although the existing and proposed legislation allows for exemptions such as the Mississippi Baptist schools, between 1975 and January of 1985, none of the 288 institutions applying for exemptions had received any. Nobles said this year some applications had finally been processed and approved. The exemptions that MC is asking for include "any areas which deal with matters that we feel are vital to the religious purpose of the institution such as in curriculum and faculty appointments," said Nobles.

And Nobles doesn't like the new legislation being called civil rights restoration." He said, "Religious freedom is as much a civil right as any of them. You can't trod one down to push another up."



Seated left to right are Rowe 'Rusty' Holcomb (minister of media/youth, FBC, Cleveland); Odis Henderson (associational missionary, Bolivar); Harry Howarth (Acts board member, FBC, Cleveland); Tommy Naron (Acts board member, FBC, Cleveland). Standing left to right are Bob Nance (Delta Acts chairman, FBC, Cleveland); W. D. 'Doc' Griffin (Acts board member, Yale Street, Cleveland); Thomas Bruce (Acts board member, Yale Street, Cleveland).

ACTS Cable 10 offers family programming for Cleveland

The Delta Acts Board is one of the most active affiliates of the American Christian Television System in the country. Growing out of First Church, Cleveland's original worship service telecast over a public access channel on Warner Cable's System in Cleveland, Drew and Ruleville, 'Acts Cable 10' now is governed by the Delta Acts Board of Cleveland, made up of members from First, Cleveland; Yale Street Church; Delta State University's Baptist Student Union; and the Bolivar Baptist Association.

Acts cable 10 began its affiliation with Acts in August of 1984 and now offer 24 hours of family programming to Warner Cable's 6000 subscribers in the Cleveland area. Utilizing production equipment provided by First, Cleveland, Acts Cable 10 produces five hours per week of new local origination programming.

Acts Cable 10 broadcast the weekly worship services from First Baptist and two Sunday School lessons.

Yale Street pastor Bill Jenkins produces a 30-minute weekly Uniform convention series Bible study and First Baptist's minister of education Milton Burd leads

a 30-minute weekly Life and Work series Sunday School lesson.

In addition, September marked the first anniversary of Acts Cable 10's 'The info show.' Hosted by Dick Strahan, the info show is a weekly 30-minute interview show featuring local officials and civic leaders, as well as drawing from the Delta State University lecture series for guests.

The newest addition to Acts Cable 10's schedule is 'Sports Week.' Sports Week, hosted by Ed Flemmons, is a weekly program featuring interviews with local high school and jr. high coaches, as well as highlights from each week's football games. Sports Week utilizes a crew made up of members of Explorer Scout Post E11, a communications emphasis post.

Consideration is being given to replaying the full games from local high schools and this would bring Acts Cable 10's total to almost 10 hours per week. In addition to programs, Acts 10 has produced many spots for insertion during breaks in the Acts network programming. These 1½ to 2½ minute mini programs cover events, ministries, public service announcements and inspirational messages.

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BR2

Israeli commission counters plan to replace burned church

JERUSALEM (BP)—Three years after the Narkis Street Baptist Church was destroyed by arsonists, the congregation has learned its rebuilding plans have been rejected by a regional development commission.

However, the commission reportedly will allow a 60-seat worship center—equivalent to the one gutted Oct. 7, 1982—and other improvements at the site.

The 300-member congregation had been seeking permission to build an up-to-date facility encompassing a 400-seat auditorium, several Sunday school rooms and office space.

According to a statement issued by the church's pastor, Robert Lindsey, "Members of the district planning commission have privately reported that after a stormy session three members voted to grant the approval as requested (by the congregation) and six others voted to deny (it)."

Formal notice of the commission's decision has not been received, said Lindsey, a Southern Baptist representative to Israel since 1944.

"We have to accept and forgive those who voted against the church's (rebuilding) plans," Brad Young, a Southern Baptist living in Israel, exhorted fellow church members in an Oct. 5 service.

Young, referring to the arsonists, also said, "We have to love the people who persecute us."

He urged a response to the commission's decision be formulated, ex-

pressing the church's opposition but maintaining the integrity of its Christian stance.

Young expressed "confidence that God is working and all will work out for good."

At the close of the service, worshippers moved from a tent-like structure, where services have been held since the fire, to the remains of the chapel. They read a section from the Old Testament, Haggai 2:1-9. Lindsey said verse 9 is of particular encouragement to the congregation, "The glory of this present house will be greater than the glory of the former house."

"We feel God wants us to rebuild," Lindsey said.

The church's proposed replacement of its former chapel, which was built in 1933, would have cost \$1 million. Already, \$500,000 has been contributed by groups, congregations, and in-

dividuals in numerous countries, including many in the United States.

Lindsey said the congregation hired a well-known Jerusalem architect, Zev Baran, to draw up rebuilding plans. Approval from the city of Jerusalem came last fall and "most of the officials were extremely helpful," the pastor said. But the plans have been bogged down in the regional development commission since November 1984.

Slowing down the process has been opposition from Y'ad L'achim, a conservative Jewish organization antagonistic toward Christianity. Prior to a commission hearing earlier this year, Y'ad L'achim organized a protest in front of the church Jan. 23, promoting it with posters throughout Jerusalem. About 100 people, including women, children and teenagers, participated.

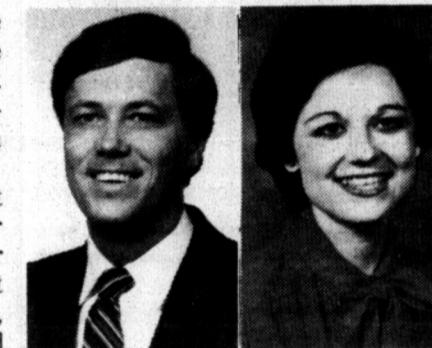
International students invited to Garaywa

International students from college campuses across Mississippi will be the guests of the Mississippi Baptist Student Union for a special conference Oct. 25-27 at Camp Garaywa in Clinton.

The annual International Student Conference will feature as speaker Thomas Graves, associate professor of philosophy of religion at Southeastern Seminary, Wake Forest, N.C. Susan Clark, youth music and drama specialist with the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board in Jackson and minister of music and youth at Oakdale Church, Brandon, will lead the music at the conference.

Purpose of the conference is to "let students of other religious backgrounds examine the Christian faith in an atmosphere of complete understanding and respect for all religions," according to Jerry Merriman, director of student work for Mississippi Baptists.

Graves will deliver three messages



Graves Clark

with the overall title, "Religion . . ." "What is it?" "Who needs it?" and "What do you do with it?"

International students are encouraged to bring any national costume, music representative of their country, and any instrument they can play.

The program is free to Internationals with transportation arranged by local BSUs. For registration information, contact the Baptist Student Center near the local campus.

Eat a 90-foot banana split? youth meet: this and other topics

"Eating a 90-foot banana split by yourself" is the alternate topic of one of the sessions of a statewide Youth Ministries Workshop set for Oct. 28-29 at Lake Tiak O'Khata, Louisville.

The program is sponsored by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board and is designed to offer ministry-oriented inspiration and fellowship to youth ministers.

Incidentally, the banana session's other title is "Ministering to apathetic youth groups," one of four seminars to be led by Richard Ross, a consultant at The Baptist Sunday School Board. Other topics for Ross include alternatives to burnout, working effectively with councils or committees, and ministering to parents of youths.

Bible study leader will be Phil McCarty, faculty member of the religion department at Mississippi College. McCarty has been speaker to



McCarty Ross

the annual Mississippi Baptist Youth Night in Jackson.

The program begins at 1:30 p.m., Oct. 28 with registration and concludes with lunch the next day.

For reservations, contact Lake Tiak O'Khata at 773-7853, asking for reservations for the Youth Ministries Workshop. Register with Lloyd Lunceford, Box 530, Jackson, Miss. 39205, phone 968-3800.

"Alive in '85"

State Convention Board sponsors TV program on Christian athletes

"Alive in '85" is a television program about Mississippi, and especially about Christian athletes in Mississippi. The Mississippi Baptist Convention is helping to sponsor this first program in what may become a series.

"Alive in '85," Program No. 1, will feature Kent Austin, Ole Miss quarterback; Calvin Smith, Olympic sprinter from Bolton; and Lake Speed, race car driver from Jackson. The program is produced and hosted by Ken Anderson, Jackson television personality and a Southern Baptist.

For helping to sponsor the program, the Mississippi Baptist Convention has either a 30 or a 60 second spot during the program air time. They plan to use a "Good News America, God Loves You" spot giving Mississippi simultaneous revivals dates, said Farrell Blakenship, director of broadcast services, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, who coordinated the spots and served as liaison with Ken Anderson and the convention.

The program has already aired on the Greenwood station Sept. 6, 6:30-7:00 p.m. and WTOK, Meridian, Sept. 15, 1 p.m.

It will air Sunday, Oct. 20, on WLOX-TV Channel 13, Biloxi at 3:30 p.m. and in Jackson, Wednesday, Oct. 30, 9:30 p.m. on WDBD, Channel 40.

Anderson has noted that he is still in negotiation with some other televi-

sion stations in Mississippi to air the programs.

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Continued from page 2)
solutions than with advancing either position.

An instinctive team player, Pickering said he has tried in both the church and state disputes to keep both sides focused on their common objectives and to keep the group from taking extreme positions. "We may not ever get the people on the extreme ends to agree, but I hope we come up with a solution that the vast majority can support," Pickering said.

Kevin Jones, religion editor for the Jackson Daily News, wrote the above for Religious News Service and it appeared in The Baptist Messenger of Oklahoma.

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J.B. Fowler, Jr., is editor of The Baptist New Mexican and director of public relations for the Baptist Convention of New Mexico. He resides in Albuquerque.

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BROADMAN

Thursday, October 17, 1985

Reynolds, Singing Churchmen featured at music celebration

Parkway Church, Jackson, will host the culminating event of Celebration '85, the 40th anniversary of music in Mississippi Baptist churches, on Oct. 25, at 7 p.m. This event, Adult Celebration Days, will feature William J. Reynolds and the Mississippi Singing Churchmen.

Reynolds Reynolds is a member of the church music faculty at Southwestern Seminary, Fort Worth. He also is a noted hymnologist, composer and arranger with broad and varied experiences in the field of church music and worship.

Organized in 1965, the Mississippi Singing Churchmen is comprised of ministers of music from throughout the state, and is directed by Milfred Valentine, music faculty member, Jones Junior College, Ellisville. For the past 20 years, the group has been involved in music and missions worldwide and each year presents concerts in several Mississippi cities.

Admission is free and the public is invited to attend this program which is sponsored by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board Church Music Department.

Three concerts will be performed during October by the Mississippi Singing Churchmen in addition to the closing concert at Parkway Church, Jackson.



Mississippi Singing Churchmen

The first will be Oct. 23 at 6:30 p.m. at Meadowwood Church, Amory. At 8 p.m. on Oct. 23 the Churchmen will perform at First Church, Amory; and at 7 p.m. on Oct. 24 they will be at First Church, Greenwood. The concert tour will close at Parkway, Jackson.

The tour is a part of the closing events for Celebration '85, the observation of 40 years of organized music work among Mississippi Baptists.

Dan Hall is director of the Church Music Department for the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

The Mississippi Singing Churchmen have been invited to sing Feb. 20 to 22, 1986, at the Southern Division Convention of the American Choral Directors Association meeting to be held in Nashville, Tenn. This is felt to be a special honor and recognition, said Lee Gordon, president of the Singing Churchmen.

Work totaling \$115,901.37 was approved by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board's Executive Committee meeting in a called session in Jackson last week. The money will be spent to refurbish, resurface, and replace furnishings at Gulfshore Baptist Assembly. None of the work is directly related to damages done by Hurricane Elena.

A total of \$20,503.83 will be spent to repaint the exterior of the main buildings; \$8,750 to resurface the tennis courts; \$9,867.54 to put in new carpets and draperies in four McLemore apartments; \$4,500 to install a rooftop cooling unit for the laundry room; and \$72,280 for new

State Sunday Schools gain 3,625 in 1985

By Tim Nicholas

Mississippi Baptist Sunday School this year gained a projected 3,625 net increase in enrollment over that of 1984, according to figures gathered by Keith Wilkinson, director of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board's Sunday School Department.

The 1984 enrollment was 351,553 and the 1985 projection is 355,178.

Wilkinson's department participated Sept. 29 in Celebration Sunday for 8.5 by '85, a campaign to reach a total enrollment of eight and a half million in Southern Baptist Sunday

Schools by the end of the 1985 church year.

Associations across the state phon ed in totals on that date and Wilkinson and his staff tallied the figures. Information from about 10 associations was still forthcoming, so Wilkinson used last year's figures. Any increase or decrease in those associations will change the total.

The national campaign to increase enrollment has "been a success," says Wilkinson, "because it has set a direction for us. We're emphasizing growth again in Sunday School and it's caused us to refocus on the basics of what Sunday School is all about — reaching people and teaching the Bible."

Wilkinson says one problem still nags Southern Baptists — that of fully utilizing the Sunday School for evangelism. "We have to break out of the pattern of just enrolling church members and start enrolling lost people," says Wilkinson.

After the campaign ended Sept. 29, with a live television program on Baptist Telecommunication Network (BTN), reports from all 39 state conventions and fellowships totaled an estimated increase over 1984 of 145,472 for a total enrollment for Southern Baptist churches estimated at 8,002,809. The Southern Baptist Sunday School enrollment was 7,433,405 in 1980 when 8.5 by '85 began, for an estimated five-year gain of 569,404.

As the 1985 enrollment emphasis ends, Challenge 10/90, a new emphasis to enroll 10 million persons in Bible study by 1990 is beginning. Final totals will be based on a complete daily tally of Uniform Church Letters which is expected in February.

Executive Committee approves Gulfshore work

bunk beds, mattresses, and chests of drawers for unit "C," where youth groups are housed.

As to Hurricane Elena damage, church building consultant Neron Smith reported to the Committee that a permanent roof is in place on the auditorium and contracts for the rest of Gulfshore repairs will be let shortly. And the Executive Committee voted \$25,949 for roof repairs to the main buildings.

More than three quarters of a million dollars in hurricane and wind damages are still being negotiated by Smith with insurance carriers.

In other business the committee elected Robert Calvert of Ashland to the Convention Board to replace Phillip Bray who has moved.

Devotional House calls

But when Jesus heard that, he said unto them, They that be whole need not a physician, but they that are sick . . . MATT 9:12

By Chris Burrows

"You are too young to remember this, pastor; but I can recall when doctors made house calls," said the senior adult at a recent fellowship meal. "It did not make any difference about the circumstances. You could always count on the doctor getting there."

Well, I must admit I do not remember doctors making house calls, with the exception of quarantine cases. In school, I had many classes with prospective doctors, and I can understand how time demands and medical equipment ended the days of the house call.

But there is still one physician who makes house calls. He can make them in any neighborhood and in the dead of night. An appointment is not needed and this doctor is never late. Never.

Burrows The great physician? His name is Jesus.

He is the greatest M.D. I know. Jesus is flawless, as one senior adult said, "at curing what ails you." He can detect the cause of the illness and knows how to remove it.

To the pleasure of his patients, his bedside manner is perfect. His love is obvious, but he can get tough when the occasion calls for it. The comfort, even after the immediate need is met, lingers throughout the healing process and is never forgotten.

The only prerequisite to a house call is recognizing the need of this physician. In fact, if you do not think you need him, then you can count on the fact that he will not drop in on you.

But he comes prepared for those who want him. There is no disease, no matter how severe, that he can't handle. Better yet, the bill is free. He has already taken care of the cost, long before we ever thought about asking for him.

It is true, unfortunately, the days of personal service our senior adults fondly remember are just a memory. But, thankfully, there is still one personal service available to those that want it.

He loves to make house calls.

Burrows is pastor, Dorsey Church, Mantachie, and staff member, Northeast Mississippi Daily Journal.

Record month set for united giving

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — The worldwide mission and educational programs of the Southern Baptist Convention received \$10,911,903 during the month of August through the national Cooperative Program, the SBC's voluntary, unified budget.

"A record response to the record needs of our world is what Bold Mission Thrust is all about," Harold C. Bennett, president of the SBC Executive Committee said, referring to the Southern Baptist effort to present the gospel of Jesus Christ to every person in the world by the year 2000. "Southern Baptists — individually and as a denomination — are responding to the fact God wants to use us — our time, our talents and our resources — to tell the Good News."

It was the largest single month for the national Cooperative Program since it began in 1925. The previous high (\$10,812,419) was set last January.

The undesignated gifts, which represented an increase of \$2.2 million (25.2 percent) over income during August 1984, pushed the yearly total to \$107,799,155 with one month remaining in the fiscal year.

The 1984-85 basic operating budget from the Cooperative Program for the 19 boards, agencies, commissions and committees which share the money is \$118 million.

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C. A. Bozeman

Annuity plan

Retiree helps in setting record for association

By Tim Nicholas

C. A. Bozeman of Rolling Fork made one of the smallest Baptist associations to be the first in the nation in an important area.

The Delta layman met all seven churches in the Sharkey-Issaquena Baptist Association to persuade them to agree to participate in a new annuity plan for their ministers and church employees.

The plan, which Bozeman had to present at church business meetings, is a shared program whereby the church contributes twice what the employee puts in up to ten percent of his or her salary, and the Mississippi Baptist Convention contributes the same amount as the employee, up to \$420 per year. Churches are even allowed, according to the Annuity Board which developed this plan, to contribute the member's contribution.

Bozeman, who spent 32 years with the Mississippi Forestry Commission, retired in 1978 as a district forester. He was widowed two years ago and keeps himself busy with church committees, hunting, and fishing. Friends built him a plexiglas deer stand on light poles with room for "two fellers and a space heater." He's out of the house between six and seven every morning. "I'm a gooney bird," he says about his need to stay busy. His two children live in Memphis and Sterling, Va. Daughter in Memphis, Betty Golden, was a journeyman in Kenya, 1973-75. His son C.A., Jr., designs computers.

When asked by Bill Sellers, the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board's Annuity representative to present the new annuity plan to the churches of his association, Sharkey-Issaquena, Bozeman agreed. I think it's real good for our church employees and pastors." He adds, "To me, for the small churches, it's one of the best deals I've seen. They can give their pastor a fairly good retirement and it doesn't cost a lot of money."

Though Sharkey-Issaquena is the smallest association in Mississippi, with only seven churches, nonetheless, it was the first in the Southern Baptist Convention to adopt the new annuity plan 100 percent. "He (Sellers) told me I'd never do it," says Bozeman, almost grinning from behind his third or fourth cup of morning coffee. The key, he says, is convincing pastors to want the program.

"As he explained it to me, I tried to bear on the pastors the advantage to them, really good, give them stories of preachers retired now drawing 70, 80, 90 dollars a month."

Says Bozeman, "We've got some ministers that have to do something on the side to make a living."

His state retirement would be enough by itself to make it, says Bozeman. "But in taking your retirement, you can take it so your wife can have a living after you're gone. I took it that way. The Lord didn't see it that way and took her first." Bozeman says his Social Security income helps him to live comfortably.

"All our churches responded real good. One or two were hesitant and talked about it a while," he says.

"Our churches, being small, responded real good," he says. Some churches would say "We may not even have this pastor in 1988." Bozeman would respond, "Whichever pastor you have, you want him to have a good retirement system."

Bozeman says the main point is "to sell the churches on participating in the whole ministry. Not just the particular pastor they have."

He notes, "Our churches haven't felt like they hired someone to work for them. They felt when they retired, they were through with them."

And he adds, "The Book says take care of him (or other employees) even when he's through preaching."

Pastor at FBC, Jackson, resigns

Earl Craig, pastor of First Church, Jackson, since 1981, citing "personal and family reasons," submitted his resignation to the congregation Sunday morning.

Craig, who came to the Jackson church from the pastorate of Richardson Heights Church, Richardson, Tex., is a graduate of Furman University and earned the doctor of theology degree from Southwestern Seminary.

The church recently completed a capital stewardship drive during which the congregation committed more than \$14 million to an expansion program.

Unrest continues in Uganda; some missionaries in Kenya

KAMPALA, Uganda (BP)—Continued unrest in the wake of a July 27 coup in Uganda is keeping seven Southern Baptist missionaries in neighboring Kenya, but nine others have been able to resume work in the country.

The missionaries were at a mission meeting in Kenya when the coup occurred and remained there until the situation in Uganda seemed to stabilize, within weeks after the coup.

However, Rob and Mickie Norman of Lawndale and Lincolnton, N.C., respectively, again left their home in a Kampala suburb in mid-September after the neighborhood was occupied by soldiers seeking to fend off attacks from guerrillas camped nearby. They are staying at Brackenhurst Baptist Conference Centre, Limuru, Kenya.

Missionary George Berry of Saluda, S.C., reported from Kampala Sept. 22 that the Normans' neighborhood was calm again, but five army roadblocks were set up between their home and the city.

Berry said the capital was quiet, but another military roadblock in front of the Baptist Bookstore was keeping customers away. His children and those of Rick and Susan Goodgame of Clearwater, Fla., and Houston, Texas, were able to continue attending school.

Missionaries Jimmie and Peggy Hooten of Iowa Park and Dallas, Texas, and journeyman John Dina of Phoenix, Ariz., were still at their home in Jinja at last report although the road outside Jinja also had been

the scene of fighting between government and guerilla soldiers.

The National Resistance Army, one of the four groups which fought deposed President Milton Obote, has refused to join the other three in the new government and has continued fighting while demanding at least half the seats on the ruling military council.

At least two other missionary couples are staying in Kenya. Walter and Billie Allen, whose home in Lira was destroyed in the coup, are in Kitali, Kenya, and David and Darlene Sorley, who are stationed in Mbale, and their children are at Brackenhurst center.

The Allens, of Wylie and Venus, Texas, returned to their home, next door to that of Obote, and found little left to salvage except a damaged freezer and washing machine and a few books and papers.

When they checked the home of missionaries Paul and Kay Eaton in the nearby village of Agwata, they found even less. All that was left of the double-wide mobile home and its contents was the floor. The Eatons, scheduled to begin furlough a few days after the coup, returned to the United States before learning the fate of their home. The Eatons, of Farmington, N.M., and Clearwater, Fla., are on furlough in Inverness, Fla.

"Things become unimportant in these events," said Allen, "but we're still trying to find out about people, church members, friends and students who we were working with."

In Mbale, four hours away from

Lira, the Sorleys found all their friends were safe and only one church member's home had been looted. The two men guarding the Sorleys' house were robbed of their clothes, blankets, and mattresses the night of the coup, but nothing was taken from inside the house. Ugandan friends there advised them not to stay in Mbale until the situation stabilized. The Sorleys are from Minneapolis, Minn.

One couple who have been on furlough, Larry and Sharon Pumpeley of Newark and Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio, left Sept. 23 to return to their work in Kampala.

In light of continuing unrest in some parts of the country, some missionaries may be given temporary assignments in other countries until the situation stabilizes, said Davis Saunders, the Foreign Mission Board's director for eastern and southern Africa.

Baptist rep killed in Mexico

ed at home, Jodi of Fort Worth, Texas, and Jennifer, a senior at Baylor University, Waco, Texas; his mother, Mrs. Odie Philpot of Mena, Ark.; two brothers, Nelson Philpot of Homer La., and Larry Philpot of Heidelberg, Germany, and a sister, Odessa Dann of Livermore, Calif.

Welch and Bridges write for Baptist Press.



Union Baptist Church in Alcorn County was the first Mississippi church to bring its pastor into the new Annuity plan, which is a shared participation plan among the church, the minister, and the convention board. Former pastor Harvey Reeves says, "I really can't take the credit for leading them into that. The groundwork had already been laid before I got there.

"During the absence of a pastor one of the retired county missionaries (W. C. Gann) had introduced the program and they voted to do this. I think it's a much better program and it will help the church and the pastor both come to the mutual grounds that both have responsibility for."

Harvey Reeves
Bethel Church
New Albany, MS



Southern Baptist Annuity Board

Foreign Mission Board approves a total of \$406,500 for Mexico rebuilding project

By Erich Bridges

RICHMOND, Va. (BP) — The Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board earmarked \$406,500 Oct. 3 to buy equipment and feed 3,000 Mexicans while they are trained to help dig Mexico City out from under the wreckage of two earthquakes.

More than half of the money will pay for nine big compressor jackhammers, plus smaller equipment such as blowtorches and power saws for cutting metal. The rest will finance up to three weeks of food each for 3,000 jobless Mexicans as they are trained to use the equipment.

An additional \$200,000 may be allocated for more compressor jackhammers in a second phase of the project if the overall effort succeeds.

The project emerged as Mexican Baptists, Southern Baptist representatives and Foreign Mission Board human needs consultant Don Turner met in Mexico City to evaluate long-term earthquake relief needs. Mexican Baptists identified three major needs beyond current emergency feeding and shelter: 1) cleanup and reconstruction in the city, 2) jobs and vocational training for those left unemployed and homeless, and 3) temporary income or food during the training.

As unofficial earthquake death tolls topped 7,000 at the beginning of October, an estimated 1,400 buildings in Mexico City lay in various stages of ruin. Many of the buildings housed businesses and government offices, and as many as 30,000 families lost work, according to Turner.

Turner said government officials have said that "the greatest need is for compressors, jackhammers, electric steel cutting saws, hacksaws, and cutting torches. Right now the (cleanup) work must be done by hand and is terribly slow. They have some big equip-

ment, but need the jackhammers to get things ready to move."

Mexican Baptist businessman Raul Castellanos, an executive in the Aristos hotel and construction group, has offered to provide training for the 3,000 workers, followed by employment with Aristos, other construction companies, and the government.

First Baptist Church of Mexico City, in the heart of one of the worst-hit areas, will likely be the training site. The church owns two adjacent lots with facilities big enough to house the training project, which will include on-the-job experience in the ravaged city. In addition to general demolition, the trainees will learn general repair, maintenance, mechanics, and construction work in concrete, asphalt, and steel.

The Aristos group is willing to train the 3,000 men in return for their labor during training and use of the equipment, Turner said. He added the skills would help them find employment long after the cleanup is completed. Castellanos is also working with Mexico City government officials, who reportedly have expressed a willingness to cooperate, to assure the workers and equipment are used in actual restoration efforts.

Aristos has agreed to buy the compressor jackhammers after the training period at the market price for used machinery, enabling the Foreign Mission Board to recover at least half of the retail expenditure. Those funds will in turn be funneled by Southern Baptist representatives and Mexican Baptists into additional relief-related projects.

In cooperation with the National Baptist Convention of Mexico and its Disaster Response Committee, First Baptist Church will coordinate a program of Christian witness and train-



The Mississippi disaster unit was situated at the sports complex with a national Baptist banner.

ing for the workers involved in the training program. Turner said First Baptist would no longer offer its facilities for emergency shelter after Oct. 2, but will keep distributing food for quake survivors as long as the need exists.

In Richmond, Foreign Mission Board staffers reported receipt of more than \$14,000 in Mexico relief contributions from Southern Baptists by Oct. 2. A great deal more money, they reported, is "in the pipeline" as it moves from individual churches through state Baptist conventions. The board is also sending \$10,000 contributed by the Baptist World Alliance for use by Mexican Baptists in earthquake relief.

Erich Bridges writes for the Foreign Mission Board.



These were some of the favorites of the crew among the children who visited the unit.



Bill Lee and Wayne Barnett prepare lunch for the crew.

Photos by James Smith



Orientation for the crews from Mississippi, Oklahoma, Louisiana, and Texas in Mexico City.

Faces And Places

by anne washburn mc williams

Of Greece and the Marlers

Parkes and Martha Ellen Marler lived in Athens year round for three years in a rented furnished apartment. Though most of their time was spent with the English-speaking population, they also made a lot of friends among the Greek citizens. "They play backgammon at home, in the stores, in the parks, in the cafes," observed Parkes. "Everybody plays backgammon!"



Parkes and Martha Ellen Marler

Siesta time in Greece, they found, is every day from 2:30 until 5:30 p.m. Then from 8:30 until 12 at night, businesses are open, and people eat. "Everybody loves to go out to eat!"

As Southern Baptists' only missionaries in Greece, the Marlers were in Athens by a Letter of Toleration from the Greek government, from 1982 until this year. They were not to minister to Greeks, but were allowed only to work with Americans or people from other countries living in Greece.

Almost all the Greek people belong to the Greek Orthodox faith, the state religion. Religious festivals play an important part in Greek life. Almost every village has a patron saint. On the evening before the saint's day everyone goes to church. Then after the service, the people eat and sing and dance far into the night.

In the close-knit Greek family, the father is the central authority who earns the money, makes the major decisions, and takes part in local activities. The mother stays close to home, managing it and raising the children. Usually women do not lead in church services though they would be present. If a woman starts going to church a lot, her husband is apt to ask, "Why? Do you want to be a nun?"

Parkes was pastor of the English-language Baptist church which meets in a leased building in Athens. He and Martha Ellen, both natives of Harperville, Mississippi, are now living in Forest, where their youngest son, Philip, is a senior in high school. On Oct. 11, they received their 30-year service pins from the Foreign Mission Board. Appointed in October, 1955, as missionaries to Korea, they transferred in 1968 to Guam and then in 1982 to Greece.

Their daughter, Gloria, and her husband, David Glaze, are missionaries to Argentina. "They will be here for Christmas," said Martha Ellen, "and will bring our three grandchildren so that the whole family can be together." Marcus, another of the Marlers' sons, is a minister of music and youth in Payson, Ariz., and a third son, Tommy, is seeking a doctorate in horticulture from the University of Florida.

Membership of the English-speaking church in Athens is chiefly made up of American military and embassy personnel and their families. Some members are Lebanese business people. Others are women from Australia, England, Africa, India, etc., who have married Greeks but who speak English also. "Some are Christian products of Southern Baptist missions in their countries," Martha Ellen pointed out.

Tourists visit the church almost every Sunday. A hospitality ministry to American tourists in Athens was an important part of the Marlers' ministry there. "We really enjoyed this," Martha Ellen said, "meeting people, having lunch with them, showing them the church and perhaps a little of the city." I remembered that Mary Cannon, Dan Hall's sister-in-law and a Home Mission Board employee, was one of those who stopped to visit with them last year. Mary had written me a letter about her time with them in Athens.

"The church provides a place of fellowship for the English-speaking community," said Parkes. "Its ties are like family ties." It also provided friendships for the missionary couple, especially since there were no other missionaries stationed in the country.

"Their response to offerings is good," he said. "In two Sundays they gave \$3,500 for world hunger."

Several of the members have volunteered for mission service, one couple expressing the hope that they might some day be able to become missionaries to the Greek-speaking people of the nation.

Earlier this year, when the plane leaving Greece was hijacked by terrorists, Martha Ellen and Philip had asked for reservations on it, but were told there were no more seats. Consequently they took the next flight and did not know the fate of the early flight until they arrived at their destination. The two were coming on ahead of Parkes, because of the illness of Martha Ellen's father, A. R. Townsend, who died five days after they got here.

Martha Ellen grew up attending a Baptist church; she was baptized at age nine. Parkes grew up in a Methodist church, but says, "I was not saved until I was in military service in 1943." Then he joined a Baptist church. He held pastorates in Harperville, Newhebron, and McComb, and at Bethlehem Church, Forkville. Both are graduates of Mississippi College and New Orleans Seminary.

"Greece is a strategic place, a cosmopolitan place," said Martha Ellen. "We had lived for many years in Asia, so we were glad in these past three years to be able to learn something of the European culture also. We learned to appreciate Greece and to appreciate our own heritage. In fact, everywhere we have served we have especially realized our appreciation for three things: first, our being Christians; second, our being Southern Baptists, with the support of the Cooperative Program; and third, our being Americans."

Letters to the Editor

Christian rock

Editor:

In recent weeks I have noticed several letters in this column in which unfavorable comments were voiced concerning the "Christian rock" singing duo which was on the program at the recent youth night at the Mississippi Coliseum.

While I, also, prefer the more traditional forms of musical praise to our Lord, it would seem to me that possibly there are some very good and viable reasons why the music presented by those two young men could have been uplifting to our youth. Let's face it—times have changed! Young people today are exposed to much worse musical influences than those presented at Youth Night. If "Christian rock" is what they can identify more readily with from a musical point of view, and if the end result of this music is souls won to Christ and young lives touched by a celebration of his love and power, then something has worked in a positive way. Better to have them listening to two young men praise the Lord in a manner that is admittedly more "upbeat" than contemporary religious music than to have one youth out on the streets experimenting with drugs and alcohol.

Maybe there are those of us who choose not to face facts. The truth is that we are simply not reaching our young people these days like we should be. Could it be that somewhere along the way we have forgotten what it felt like to be a young person faced with growing up, and with all the choices that are a part of being young? I would much prefer seeing our children enthusiastic about a "Christian rock" musical format at a gathering that is for them than to see them patronizing "punk" music and the demonic and cold stereotype that it seems to invoke in those who are caught up in it.

In closing I would implore that we as Christians take a good long look at ourselves. Do we present a role model that our young people can identify favorably with and still find spiritual guidance and a strong Christian foundation? With God's help and a dedication to this purpose we can.

John T. Brown
Meridian, MS

Hawaii appreciation

Editor:

I want to share my gratitude with Mississippi Baptists.

John Alexander, your director of Stewardship and Cooperative Program Promotion, along with consultant David Michael, brought five Mississippi pastors and their wives to Hawaii. The pastors who came were Joel Haire, Crystal Springs; Ferrell Cork, Aberdeen; Ed Gandy, Kosciusko; Jimmy McGee, Grenada; and Donnie Stewart, Holly Springs.

These leaders came at their own expense (and through the generosity of their churches and of the Mississippi Baptist Convention). They trained us. They encouraged and inspired us. The value and assistance they gave us cannot be measured. I felt so proud to say they were representatives of my home state.

Thank you, Mississippi Baptists.
Mary Eleanor Kong
Hawaii Baptist Academy

Christian rock

Editor:

In reading the comments that have appeared in the *Baptist Record* concerning "Christian rock," I am reminded of a saying that I heard throughout my childhood: "If you can't say something nice, don't say anything at all."

It seems to me that many of the comments concerning "Christian rock" have been overly critical. Yes, I am aware that "Christian rock," like anything else, has its drawbacks. However, we must not be critical of this style of music just because it is not our preference.

Remember that each of us as Christians are given the ministry of reconciliation. (II Corinthians 5:17-18) Although our methods, talents and abilities may be different, we all should strive to reconcile others to Christ. I am convinced that the same God who gave us our gifts will also use our availability to reach others through these gifts.

I trust that those of you who have been critical will take a deeper look at the ministry through groups who perform Christian music. I think that you will be amazed at the level of ministry that you find. Instead of being critical, find something positive to say about your Christian brothers and sisters who are ministering to a group of youths who seem to respond to the beat of a different drum.

Timothy L. Hubbard
minister of music and youth
First Church,
Vidalia, La.

Crowder lawsuit

Editor:

It, too, saddens me when I hear of a possible lawsuit Mr. Bob Crowder, a layman from Birmingham, is threatening to bring against the Southern Baptist Convention. Although your reasons the lawsuit will fail are accurate, I have heard none say why the lawsuit should never have been considered in the beginning. It seems to me I read somewhere, "If any of you have a dispute with

another, dare he take it before the ungodly for judgment instead of before the saints? Do you not know that the saints will judge the world? And if you are to judge the world, are you not competent to judge trivial cases? Do you not know that we will judge angels? How much more the things of this life! Therefore, if you have disputes about such matters, appoint as judges even men of little account in the church! I say this to shame you. Is it possible that there is nobody among you wise enough to judge a dispute between believers? But instead, one brother goes to law against another — and this in front of unbelievers!

"The very fact that you have lawsuits among you means you have been completely defeated already. Why not rather be wronged? Why not rather be cheated? Instead, you yourselves cheat and do wrong, and you do this to your brothers." (I Cor. 6:1-8, NIV)

I wonder if we have been so completely defeated that we resort to taking our disputes to the civil courts? Heaven forbid! Let us all pray for Mr. Crowder and each other, that the threat is only a threat and will go no farther.

Mike Kitchens, pastor
North Batesville Church
Batesville

Christian rock

Editor:

On the subject of "Christian rock" music:

— Have you ever had any letter commenting on the bad doctrine and silly antics often found in modern "gospel" music?

— Does anyone protest what often passes as "country gospel" music? Much of this is a shame to God and an insult to his people.

— Perhaps there is no such thing as secular music and religious music. Maybe there's only good music and bad music. Let's keep the good and junk the bad.

Joe McKeever, pastor
First Church
Columbus

Book Reviews

Good News for Today's Singles by J. Clark Hensley (Convention Press, paper, 128 pp. Church Study Course.)

This book is by the Mississippian who launched Single Adult Ministry in Mississippi some years ago when he was executive director for the Christian Action Commission. Now retired, J. Clark Hensley is associated with the Church Training Department, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, as family-life consultant.

The Foreword is written by a former Mississippian, Ann Alexander Smith. She says, "Good News for Today's Singles is Clark Hensley's philosophy of life. It offers all categories and age groups of singles the good news dimensions of help, inspiration, encouragement, and hope. It shatters the myths and stereotypes that have developed around singles. It emphasizes the importance of a healthy identity and high self-esteem. It explores what "family" means to single adults, offers help to single

parents, and challenges singles to view their frustrations, failures, and stresses as opportunities for growing toward maturity. And, best, of all, he lays before singles the promise that God will meet them at every turn in the road.

Some of the chapter titles included are Choosing the Good News, Crowned with Glory and Honor, Created for Loving Relationships, Celebrating Singleness, a Concept of Faith — Solo, The Challenge of Stress, Struggle, and Suffering, Consider Good News for the Single Again, Credible News for the Single Parent, Channeling Frustration and Failure to Fruitfulness, and God Will Meet You on Every Corner.

The black and white photographs used as illustrations are especially good and enhance the book and its message. Those who have read Hensley's other books and articles will remember that his writing is easy-to-read, as well as both inspirational and practical. This one is like that, too. — AWM

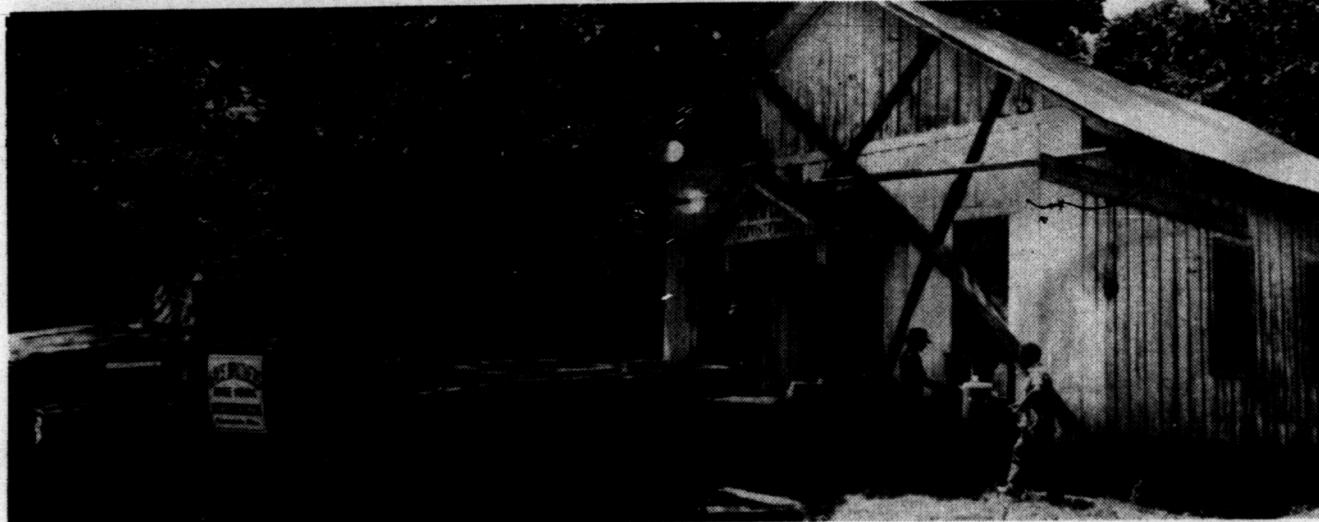
WMU Edwina Robinson Special Gifts Reach \$54,398.53

January 1 through September 30, 1985, 535 churches participating

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		EAST HOWARD	15.00	KOKOMO	15.00	MILITARY	20.00	ROSELAND PARK	40.00
		FAITHVIEW	38.25	NEW HOPE	83.00		401.00	STEEP HOLLOW	52.00
ATTALA			319.89		1,184.39				770.85
FBC KOSCIUSKO	222.00	FBC GULFPORT	45.00	MARSHALL		LAUDERDALE		PERRY	
MCADAMS	125.00	FBC WIGGINS	90.00	CAREY CHAPEL	40.00	ARKADELPHIA	112.00	FBC RUNNELSTOWN	28.65
MC COOL	20.00	KITTIAWAKE	45.00	COLDWATER	17.25	CALVARY	50.00		28.65
SALLIS	42.00	NEW HOPE	45.00	FBC BYHALIA	50.00	CAUSEYVILLE	5.00		
SPRINGDALE	22.00	PERKINSTON	45.00	FBC HOLLY SPGS	255.00	FBC COLLINSVILLE	108.00	PIKE	
WILLIAMSVILLE	15.00	SHARON	33.51	SLAYDEN	160.50	FBC MARION	27.00	BALA CHITTO	51.00
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BENTON		HINDS-MADISON				FIFTEENTH AVE	125.00	CENTRAL	87.00
ASHLAND	69.00	ALTA WOODS	28.00			HEBROM	160.00	E MCCOMB	80.00
	69.00	BAPT FOUNDATION	43.15			HIGHLAND	171.00	FBC MAGNOLIA	135.00
		BRIARWOOD DR	13.00			Macedonia	100.00	FBC MCCOMB	474.98
		BROADMOOR	206.00			Midway	100.00	FELLOWSHIP	22.00
BOLIVAR	114.50	BYRAM	136.75			MT GILEAD	11.75	FRIENDSHIP	50.00
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FBC BOYLE	276.00	DANIEL MEM	136.00			OAK GROVE	157.76	PROGRESS	60.00
FBC CLEVELAND	137.00	EDWARDS	60.00			POPLAR SPGS DR	106.00	SOUTH MCCOMB	480.00
FBC ROSEDALE		FBC JACKSON	4,081.34			RUSSELL	33.00	TERRY CREEK	70.00
GUNNISON	50.00	FBC MADISON	60.60			SOUTHSIDE	174.00	UNITY	25.00
PACE	50.00	FBC TERRY	105.00			STATE BLVD	20.00		1,688.98
PROVIDENCE	21.00	FLORA	54.00			TOOMSUBA	69.00		
SKENE	63.00	GRIFFITH MEM	12.00			WESTWOOD	33.00		
TRINITY	50.00	HILLCREST	75.00				2,157.31		
	835.50	LEARNED	73.00						
CALHOUN		MORRISON HEIGHTS	606.00						
BETHANY	76.00	OAK FOREST	63.00						
BRADFORDS CHAPEL	72.00	RAYMOND	341.00						
FBC BRUCE	117.50	RIDGECREST	15.00						
FBC CALHOUN CITY	194.86	SALEM	157.00						
FBC VARDAMAN	88.00	TRACE RIDGE	25.00						
Macedonia	5.00	UTICA	140.00						
OLD TOWN	40.00	WILDWOOD	43.00						
ROCKY BRANCH	85.00	WOODLAND HILLS	104.85						
SABOUGLA	1.00								
SHILOH	40.00								
	719.36								
CARROLL		HOLMES							
CARROLLTON	147.60	CALVARY	50.00						
COILA	23.85	EBENEZER	40.00						
MT OLIVE	22.00	FBC DURANT	185.00						
N CARROLTON	100.00	FBC LEXINGTON	120.00						
	293.45	UNITY	101.00						
CHICKASAW		ITAWAMBA							
FBC HOUKA	118.00	RIVER HILL	38.04						
FBC HOUSTON	67.00	SHILOH	10.00						
PLEASANT RIDGE	120.00	TRINITY	43.80						
SHILOH	30.00		91.84						
	335.00								
CHOCTAW		JACKSON							
ACKERMAN	17.50	ARLINGTON HTGS	23.00						
FELLOWSHIP	81.00	BELLEFOUNTAIN	48.50						
WEIR	270.50	E MOSS POINT	226.00						
CLARKE	30.00	FBC ESCATAWPA	98.00						
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FBC QUITMAN	33.00	GRIFFIN STREET	30.00						
OAK GROVE	130.00	KREOLE AVE	15.00						
PACHUTA	45.00	RED CRK UNION	22.00						
PINE HILL	57.00	RIVERSIDE	25.00						
SHUBUTA	80.00	WADE	35.84						
SOUENLOVIE	1,151.50	WOODHAVEN	91.44						
			1,064.92						
CLAY		JASPER							
CALVARY	70.25	EDON	40.00						
FBC WEST POINT	210.53	LOUIN	25.00						
TRINITY	59.00	NEW FELLOWSHIP	90.00						
WEST END	210.00		155.00						
	548.78								
COPIAH		JEFF-DAVIS							
BETHEL	100.00	ANTIOCH	77.00						
COUNTY LINE	11.00	EBENEZER	70.00						
FBC CRYSTAL SPGS	252.50	OAK GROVE	50.00						
FBC HAZLEHURST	94.00	PRENTISS	436.00						
NEW PROVIDENCE	25.00	WHITE SAND	5.00						
NEW ZION	23.00		688.00						
SARDIS	38.00	JONES							
SPRING HILL	55.00	FBC ELLISVILLE	198.00						
WESSON	139.53	FBC LAUREL	400.00						
	736.03	GLADE	22.00						
		GRACE	70.00						
COVINGTON	20.00	HIGHLAND	100.00						
COLD SPRINGS	150.00	INDIAN SPRINGS	56.50						
COLLINS	59.00	MAGNOLIA	57.00						
FBC MT OLIVE	35.00	PINE GROVE	65.00						
MT HOREB	20.00	PLAINWAY	25.00						
SALEM	284.00	PLEASANT HOME	29.50						
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FRANKLIN	16.75	TUCKERS CROSSING	173.50						
HOPEWELL	30.00	W ELLISVILLE	57.00						
LUCIEN	51.0								

EASTWOOD	70.00	TISHOMINGO		DINAN	25.00	WAYNE		YAZOO	
FBC INDIANOLA	169.00	BELMONT FIRST	105.00	ENON	67.50	CALVARY	39.00	BENTON	73.00
FBC INVERNESS	100.00	IUKA	100.00	LEXIE	49.00	FBC CLARA	150.00	BENTONIA	53.00
LINN	30.00	PADEN	66.00	MESA	60.00	FBC STATE LINE	36.00	BLACK JACK	60.00
MOORHEAD	120.00	SHORT CREEK	3.00	NEW ZION	80.00	FBC WAYNESBORO	44.00	CALVARY	49.00
SEC INDIANOLA	45.90	UNION	100.00	SALEM	57.00	MT ZION	35.00	CENTER RIDGE	44.50
SUNFLOWER	50.00	FAYETTE	70.00	TYLERTOWN	140.00	PLEASANT GROVE	127.57	CONCORD	25.00
	594.90	FBC UNION CHURCH	45.00	UNION	17.00	STRENGTHFORD	25.00	FBC YAZOO CITY	752.00
TALLAHATCHIE	215.00	PORT GIBSON	215.00		584.25		HEBRON	70.00	
FBC CHARLESTON	273.00	UNION COUNTY	15.00				HOLLY BLUFF	27.00	
FBC SUMNER	30.00	ELLISTOWN	125.00				SHORT CREEK	15.00	
FBC TUTWILER	25.00	FBC NEW ALBANY	125.00				TINSLEY	25.00	
PAYNES	60.00	HARMONY	15.00					1,194.50	
SPRING HILL	603.00	INGOMAR	104.00						
TIPPAH	71.00	JERICHO	157.00				WEBSTER	177.05	
CHALYBEATE	15.85	MACEDONIA	25.00				FBC EUPORA	71.00	
FELLOWSHIP	267.30	MYRTLE	117.00				FBC MATHISTON	20.00	
LOWREY MEMORIAL	25.00	OLD OAK GRV	40.00				FELLOWSHIP	268.05	
OAKLAND	10.00	PLEASANT HILL	34.00						
PALMER	389.15	WALTHALL	632.00				UNAFFILIATED	.00	
		CRYSTAL SPRINGS	88.75				MISC. DESIG.	824.29	
							MISC. DESIGNAT.	824.29	
								54,398.53	

New Life building begins new life at Tallahatchie Baptists' Lakeside



Volunteers load New Life Church on truck at original site.

By Joe Young

Tallahatchie Baptists recently gathered to dedicate a new chapel at Lakeside Baptist Assembly, the associational camp. It is the first indoor worship center the camp has had in its 23-year history.

Early in June volunteers assisted Bob Hays, a professional mover from Lyon, Mississippi, in moving the New Life Baptist Church building to Lakeside, and all summer volunteers have worked on renovating the 47-year old structure to serve as the New Life Memorial Chapel.

Ninety-four persons gathered for the event and heard G. E. Jolley, former director of missions in Tallahatchie County and early camp developer, as he delivered the dedicatory message. Friends of the camp toured all the facilities, enjoyed an afternoon of recreation, and wound up the day with dinner-on-the-grounds.

Camp Lakeside is owned and

operated by the Tallahatchie Baptist Association. It began when the family of H. H. Dogan of Sumner donated the property for Baptist use following his death in 1959. A formal vote to develop the camp came in October 1962 and by 1963 youth were enjoying its facilities.

The new chapel sits in a prominent place at the entrance to Lakeside. The building was donated in 1975 to the association by the New Life Baptist Church for camp use, along with the property of the church. After the church formally disbanded in 1983, Brotherhood groups began planning to move the building. Guy Wolfe of Paynes Church had hoped to move the building, but died before he could begin the project. His fellow churchmen decided to take the project of moving the building six miles over rugged terrain as a memorial to Wolfe, with the chapel itself placed in memory of all former New Life

members. Men from across the county, and Bob Hays of Lyon, a Baptist layman and moving professional, joined in the effort, using Hays' men and equipment far below cost.

New windows, wiring, lighting, and ceiling fans were installed, and the building was painted inside and out. Crews landscaped the grounds and ladies planted flowers. Prior to now the only worship center at Lakeside has been a prayer garden overlooking the lake, but services were often hindered by wet weather.

Built on 60 acres of wooded hills overlooking a large lake, Lakeside now boasts four dormitories and one mobile unit dorm for overflow. Another dormitory will be placed at the camp before the 1986 season. This will place the sleeping capacity at around 100.

Lakeside has a large, commercial-type kitchen and dining area, office building with office, infirmary, staff lounge, and director's quarters, and there are a crafts building, four storage buildings, barn, a pool, and a caretaker's home. All are of cypress construction except the caretaker's home which is of brick veneer, and all are heated and cooled for year-round use.

Lakeside reaches annually over 200 youths in its six-week overnight camping program, plus an additional 125 during a week of day camp. Hundreds more use the facilities during the year as churches hold retreats, BSU groups gather there, and other church groups make use of the facilities. Campers come from all areas of the state as well as several neighboring states. This year there were campers from Iowa, Texas, Georgia, and Tennessee. A large number from the Baptist



G. E. Jolley, recently retired DOM from Panola County, preaches dedicatory message.

Children's Village come each year, receiving scholarships from churches and individuals in Tallahatchie County. This year 21 Villagers came. A total of 15 campers made professions of faith this summer.

Directors of the camp are M.C. Johnson, director of missions, and Keith Ward of Cascilla, resident summer program director. Joe Young of Charleston is chairman and Phil Raney is the resident caretaker. Mrs. Janet Roberts of Paynes has served as dietician throughout the camp's history.

A staff of some ten college and high school students assists in the summer program as counselors.

Joe Young is pastor of Parks Church, Drew.

"Pilgrim's Progress" sells out in China

SHANGHAI, China (EP) — A report from Shanghai reveals that a recent printing of Pilgrim's Progress — 200,000 copies, was completely sold out in three days, a strong indication of spiritual hunger in China today.

During the past four years, the government-owned Social Science Press and other agencies have been printing such books as illustrations of Western literature and civilization. 400,000 copies of Bible Stories in paper back were sold between 1981 and 1983. Pilgrim's Progress was first translated into Chinese in 1853 by William Burns the famous Scottish evangelist and missionary to China. With the exception of the Bible, Pilgrim's Progress has been translated into more Chinese dialects than any other book.

WILL PAY \$500.00 **5019**

to individual or church for decent quality 1912 or 1913 Mississippi auto tag needed to complete my display. Will also buy other early tags. Conrad Hughson, Box 399, Brattleboro, Vermont 05301.

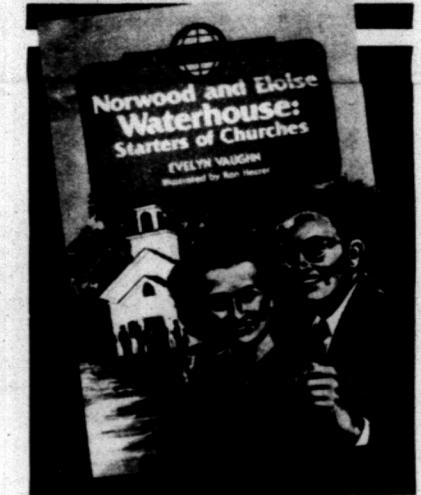
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Evelyn Vaughn is a conference leader and curriculum writer for children's Sunday School materials. She resides in Jackson, Mississippi.



Friends visit in front of remodeled structure after the service at Lakeside.

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Just for the Record



Bovina Church, Vicksburg, held its third annual WMU coronation service. All GAs and Acteens earned their steps for the year. Top Picture: Mission Friends front row, (l to r) are Dyahna Steen, Beth Steen, Melanie Herrington, Richard Bryant, LeAnn Channell, James Oldenburg. Back row (l to r) are Aimee Woodruck, Ethan Walker, Brandy Bryant, Melissa Herrington, Michael Coomes, and Bobbie Baker. Not pictured are Mrs. Claudette Channell, Mrs. Rita Monk, and Mrs. Deloris Steen, teachers.

Middle Picture: Girls in Action, front row (l to r) are Kristen Oldenburg, Amy Galey, Dawn Walker, Melissa Baker. Second row, (l to r) are Joy Traxler, Christin Ables, Brandy Baker, Kimberly Channell, Robyn Porter, Angela Hoover, Tina Baker, and Crickett Oldenburg. Back row (l to r) are Mrs. Ann Tompkins, director, Mrs. Sharon Bryant teacher, Gena Barrett, Karen Keen, Mrs. Glenda Galey, teacher, Mrs. Donna Barnard, teacher, and Angela Trussell.

Bottom Picture: Acteens are (l to r) front row Angela Baker, Dawn Ezell, Susan Pierce, Sharon Pipkin. Second row (l to r) Tammy Andress, Kelle Channell, Reba Booth, Robin Pierce, Stacey Bradshaw, and Misty Williams, not pictured Carla Welch. The theme of the service was "The Light of the World is Jesus" with a single candle focused under the arch. After each girl lit her candle from the center candle, the lights were dimmed and the congregation joined them in singing "Pass It On."

The Noxubee Baptist Association held a Leadership Conference, Sept. 22 and Sept. 23 at Calvary Church in Macon. On Sunday evening following the first session, a Joint Associational Worship Service was held with Hardy Denham of Newton preaching. The leaders were Ron McGee of Highland Church in Meridian; Tommy Anthony of First Church in Meridian and Mrs. Charlotte McElroy of Harrisburg Church in Tupelo. More than 50 attended.

First, Horn Lake, has a group of youth and adults engaged in a "Clowning for Christ" ministry. They visit nursing homes, and help in VBS and church fellowships. They may be contacted at the church, 393-7620, through Jerry Coad.

Other age groups with significant increases in population in the last five

U.S.A.'s population surpasses 236 million

The nation's population grew by 9.6 million to 236.1 million from 1980 to 1984, the Census Bureau reported. Ninety-one percent of the growth came in the South and West.

Fastest growing age groups, 1980-84, were the 35-44 group (+19.5%) and the so-called "super-aged" 85-and-older group (+19.4%).

As America's older population continues to grow, several states have experienced dramatic changes in the number of residents age 65 and older. Those with the biggest gains in the last five years: Alaska (+32.6%), Nevada (+32.2%), Hawaii (+22.9%), Arizona (+21.9%) and Utah (+16.9%).

Other age groups with significant increases in population in the last five

years: 75-84 (11.5%), 25-34 (10.3%) and under 5 (9.0%). Children of the new baby boom are expected to boost kindergarten and elementary school enrollments for the next 10 years.

Meanwhile, population in the three age categories from age 5 to 24 all declined. The number of school age children (ages 5-17) — the "baby bust" generation — fell 5.3%, reflecting the low birth rates of the 1970s.

The bureau also reported that women continue to outnumber men. There are 6 million more females than males. Males outnumber females through age 24, then fall behind.

—From news sources

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We should forgive and then forget what we have forgiven.

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Staff Changes

Tony Ludlow, student at Mid-America Seminary, has moved to the pastorate of Hickory Grove Church, Northwest Association.

Herbert Stuart, student at Mid-America Seminary, has begun his ministry as pastor of the Cedar View church, Northwest Association.

Bobby Scott has resigned as minister of music and youth at the Greenbrook Church, Northwest Association.

Ed Campbell has resigned at the Evansville Church, Northwest Association, and is going as pastor of the Harmony Church, Winston Association. He had served as associational moderator, and also as state Convention Board member from Tate County.

Aaron Lewis has resigned from the pastorate of Tyro Church, Northwest Association, where he had served since 1978. He is available for pulpit supply, revival, or Bible studies. His home number is 368-6874.

A. G. Smith has resigned the pastorate of West Pleasant Grove Church, Clarke County.

B. Z. Byrd is the new pastor at Knights Valley Church, Clarke County.

Robert Boykin has resigned as minister of education at First, Pontotoc.

Shelly Adams has resigned as pastor of New Hope Church (George-Greene).

Ronnie Skipper has resigned as pastor of Piave Church.

Bill Wible has resigned as pastor of Northside Church, Lucedale.

Sand Hill (Greene) has called Eddie Mellonee as pastor. He and his wife have two children. He is attending New Orleans Seminary.

Randy Adkinson has accepted the pastorate of Shifalo Memorial Church, Gulf Coast.

Wendell Frazier is the new minister of education and youth at Tylertown Church.

Mississippi Right To Life State Convention

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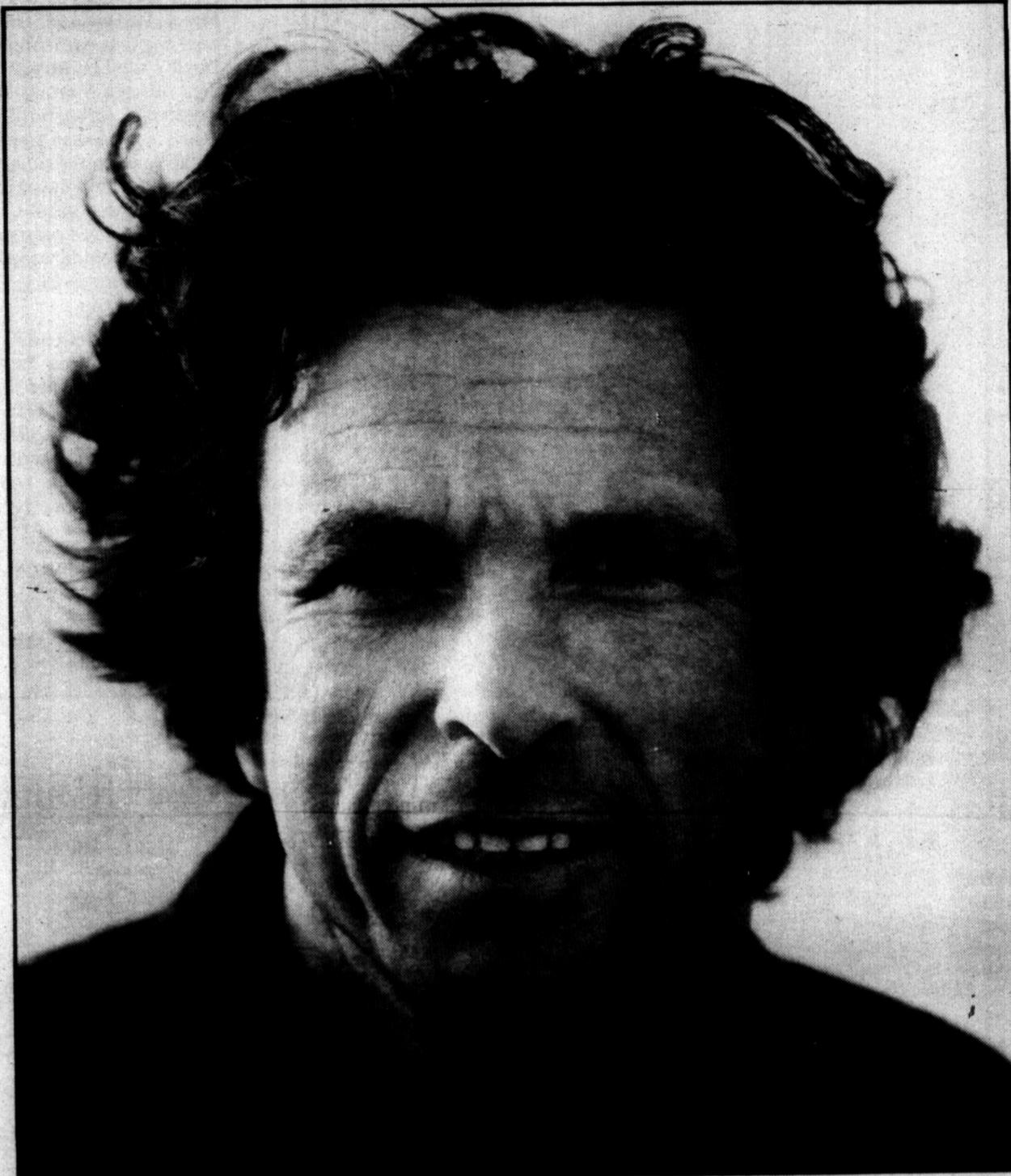
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"And later, strolling along the Sea of Galilee, where they met me. I was working on my fishing boat at the time.

"When I saw them off at the airport, they said that coming to Israel had strengthened them spiritually—and much of it was the people they met.

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Balloons found in Alabama, New York

Balloons released by First Baptist Church, Louisville, during its 150th anniversary celebration have been found in Bessemer, Alabama, and floating on Lake Ontario, not far from Canada. The church had 1,000 eleven-inch balloons filled with helium, reports Juanita Hight, chairman, Sesquicentennial Committee with the words, "Sesquicentennial Celebration, First Baptist Church, Louisville, MS., 1835-1985." Most of these were turned loose on Sunday afternoon, Aug. 25. Each contained a Scripture verse, John 3:16, which Acteens put in the balloons. Jean Burton of Bessemer wrote the church that a cluster of balloons landed in her back yard after a storm. **The Western Star**, a Bessemer newspaper, published her picture with the balloons in the sandwich shop where she works. Robert Lau of Rochester, N.Y., wrote, "Enclosed please find a scripture reading that was inside a balloon I found floating on Henderson Bay, at the eastern end of Lake Ontario."

Proposal would delay non-profit postage hike

By Kathy Palen

WASHINGTON (BP)—Recent Senate action would delay probable postal rate increases for non-profit publications until Jan. 1, 1986.

The U.S. postal budget approved by the Senate in late September includes \$785 million in federal subsidies for the U.S. Postal Service to provide reduced mailing rates to non-profit mailers, including state Baptist newspapers and church newsletters.

That figure falls \$196 million short of what the Postal Service says it needs to maintain the present level of subsidy. The shortfall would result in an approximately 30 percent rate increase for typical non-profit mailers, a Postal Service spokesman said.

An amendment sponsored by Sen. Ted Stevens, R-Alaska, would delay any increase in postal rates for non-profit mailers until the first of 1986.

The Senate-approved postal budget still must be reconciled with the House version of the bill, which contains \$922 million in subsidy. A conference committee is expected to

meet soon.

Both versions of the budget contain subsidies significantly above the Administration-proposed \$39 million. The president's proposed 1985-86 budget would have terminated the subsidy except for benefits to organizations that send materials to the blind.

Beginning in 1970, non-profit and other subsidized mailers began a 16-step plan to gradually assume the actual cost of mailing their publications and eventually remove the subsidy entirely. Mailers are now at step 14, with step 15 scheduled to take effect July 1, 1986.

The \$785 million subsidy approved by the Senate, however, would catapult mailers to step 16, said an aide to Sen. Quentin N. Burdick, D-N.C. She said a conference committee agreement on a subsidy in the \$850 million range would hold the plan at step 15.

Kathy Palen writes for the Washington Bureau of Baptist Press.

Mississippi Baptist activities

- Oct. 21 Area Secretaries Conference: Plainway BC, Laurel; 9 a.m.-3 p.m. (CAPM)
- Oct. 21-25 MasterLife Workshop: Gulfshore Assembly; 3 p.m.-21st-Noon, 25th (CT)
- Oct. 22 Area Secretaries Conference: Adams Assn. Office, Natchez; 9 a.m.-3 p.m. (CAPM)
- Oct. 23 Area Secretaries Conference: Riverside Assn. Office, Clarksdale; 9 a.m.-3 p.m. (CAPM)
- Oct. 24 Area Secretaries Conference: Lee Assn. Office, Tupelo; 9 a.m.-3 p.m. (CAPM)
- Oct. 25 Adult Celebration Day: Coliseum, Jackson; 6:30-10 p.m. (CM)
- Oct. 25-26 Church Media Library Workshop; FBC, McComb; 10 a.m., 25th-noon, 26th (SS)
- Oct. 25-27 International Student Conference; Camp Garaywa; 4 p.m., 25th-Noon, 27th (SW)

Atkinson, Hill will speak to librarians

The 14th annual Mississippi Baptist Church Media Library Organization Workshop will be Oct. 25-26 at First Church, McComb.

The 1986 church media library theme, "Open Your World," will be emphasized in all conferences and at the opening session at 1 p.m. Friday.

Workshop leaders from Nashville will be Jean Atkinson and Glynn Hill, both consultants with the Church Media Library Department of the Baptist Sunday School Board; and Charles Businaro, projects designer in the Church Architecture Department and co-author with Mancil Ezell of *Promotion Handbook for Church Media Libraries*. Ezell is secretary of the Church Media Library Department, Sunday School Board, SBC.

Workshops will include Cataloging and Classification, Media Education and Administration, How to Administer and Promote a Church Media Library, Book Repair, Audiovisual Training, and other phases of the media library work in local churches.

Revival Dates

Bethel (Yalobusha): Oct. 17-20; services at 7 p.m.; Tim Posey, Water Valley, Bethel pastor, evangelist; Linda Williams, Water Valley, leading the singing. (The church is two miles east of Highway 7 South, on Pine Valley Road, near Water Valley.)

Mineral Wells (Northwest): Oct. 30 Nov. 4; Wed. - Sat., 7 p.m.; Sunday School, 9:45 a.m.; morning worship 11:00 a.m.; evening worship, 6:00 p.m.; Herbert Higdon, director of missions, Madison-Chester Association of Baptist, Jackson, TN, evangelist; Jim & Norma Laseter, Mineral Wells, music; J. E. Williams, pastor.

New Hope (Leake): Oct. 27-30; David Wilkinson, Rocky Point, Leake Association, evangelist; services, 7 p.m. daily. James H. Young, Jr., pastor; David Pickel, music director.

Courtland (Panola): Oct. 20-24; Gary Crowell, evangelist; Sunday services, 11 a.m., 6:45 p.m.; Mon.-Thur., 7 p.m.; Billy J. McDaniel, pastor.

Maybank Church, Hattiesburg: Oct. 20-25; Herbert Clinton from Missouri, preacher; Dallas Rayborn, music; Sunday, Bible study 9 a.m.; service 10 a.m.; dinner in fellowship area; afternoon service 12:30; Mon.-Fri., 7 p.m. V. C. Windham, pastor.

Oct. 20 is also the third anniversary and homecoming for the church.

Christmas program set for inmates' kids

Mississippi Baptist church groups are invited to participate in a non-denominational Christmas program to benefit the children of those in prison.

Prison Fellowship, is sponsoring Project Angel Tree, which is organized to donate the Christmas gifts which are tailored to the individual child.

—Missionary News—

Hugh and Debbie Redmon, Jr., missionaries to Venezuela, have arrived on the field following language study (address: Apartado 358, Valencia, Edo. Carabobo, Venezuela 2001-A). Son of Southern Baptist missionaries in Costa Rica, he was born in Jackson, Miss. Daughter of missionaries to the Ivory Coast, she was born in Fort Worth, Texas.

Lisa Davis, journeyman to Brazil, has arrived on the field to begin her two-year term of service as an accompanist (address: Caixa Postal 48003, 20512 Rio de Janeiro, Rd Brazil). She considers Anniston, Ala., her hometown. Before she was employed by the Foreign Mission Board in July 1985, she was graduated from the University of Montevideo, Ala.

James and Olive Reppeto, associates to Mexico, report a change of address (Abasolo No. 8, San Juan del Rio, Queretaro, 76500 Mexico). He is a native of Kansas City, Mo. The former Olive Hundley, she was born in Drew and grew up there and in Yazoo City.

Daniel and Sharon Bradley, missionaries to Kenya, are the parents of Laura, born Sept. 6. They may be addressed at P.O. Box 2064, Kisumu, Kenya. He is from Gulfport. The former Sharon Freret, she was born in Gulfport and grew up in Saucier.

Thomas and Hazel Barron, missionaries to Indonesia, have completed furlough and returned to the field (address: Jl. Sabirin 11, Yogyakarta 55224, Indonesia). He was born in Forest, La., and grew up in Richton, Miss. She is the former Hazel Clark of Richton.

Mark and Cecile Alexander, Jr., missionaries to Argentina, have completed furlough and returned to the

field (address: Casilla 344, J.J. Paso 3066, 7600 Mar Del Plata, Argentina). He is a native of Norfolk, Va., and she is the former Cecile Price of Corinth, Miss.

Mr. and Mrs. C. Donald Doyle, missionaries to Guatemala, recently suffered the deaths of their mothers. Mrs. L. A. Doyle Sr., Donald's mother, died Sept. 11 in Ashland, Miss. Mrs. Doyle's mother, Mrs. Jay Sloane, died Sept. 10 in La Marque, Texas. Doyle is a native of Texas. Born in Abilene, he also lived in Anson and Floydada. She is the former Patricia Sloane of Portales, N.M. Appointed by the Foreign Mission Board in 1964, they resigned in 1977 and were reappointed in 1979. They may be addressed at Apartado 1135, Guatemala City, Guatemala.

Jerry and Glenda White, missionaries to Korea, have completed furlough and returned to the field (address: 201-5 O Jung Dong, Taejon 300, Korea). They are natives of Mississippi. He was born in Marion County. The former Glenda Nix, she was born in Montrose and grew up in Bay Springs.

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A sharp person rarely resorts to blunt statements.

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Pastor, Van Winkle
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Vanilla team roofs church, teaches VBS in Mexican desert

Eighteen Vanilla Church members made a mission trip to Sonoita, Mexico, in July. The men pictured are celebrating the completion of the new roof on new church building in the desert village of Nodice. Pictured left to right are Darren Lightsey, Jody Lightsey, Vanilla pastor, Alberto (an interpreter), Billy Joe Boutwell, Johnny Boyte, Robert Lea, Lupe Davilla (an interpreter) and Alton Letchworth. The group completed the roof in 3 days.

The ladies taught Vacation Bible School in a one-room school house on the desert. There were 76 enrolled. Teachers were Mrs. Ann Lightsey, Mrs. Elaine Letchworth, Denise Letchworth, Mrs. Linda Boyte, Laura Boyte, Mrs. Maggie Lea, Missy Hammond, Mrs. Shelley Jean Boutwell, and Mrs. Linda Barnes, a member of First, Clinton. The three children accompanying their parents were Brian Letchworth and Jonathan and Amanda Boyte.

Lightsey preached in revival services at night. Mrs. Linda Barnes and Mrs. Shelley Jean Boutwell provided the music, along with singing groups from the church singing in Spanish. The services the last evening were held in the partially constructed church under the new roof. During the three days there were 5 professions of faith in V.B.S. and one in revival.

Billy Bridges of White Sand, Miss., was pastor of the church at that time but has since returned to Mississippi with his family. Alberto, one of the in-



terpreters, is now serving as pastor.

Another interpreter, Lupe Davilla of Phoenix, Ariz., came to Mississippi with the group and has entered Pearl

River Junior College. He is staying with pastor and Mrs. Lightsey on weekends. His father pastors a Baptist church in Phoenix.

Names in the News



Mrs. Dan Wynn, Natchez, was elected area representative for the Southwestern Religious Education Wives' Association, 1985-1986 officers. Other officers include (seated l-r) Mrs. Fisk Ray, Shreveport, La., historian; Mrs. Kenneth Farenels, Tex., president; Mrs. Larry Maughan, Tex., membership vice-president; (row two, l-r) Mrs. Jim Lane, Tex., area representative; Mrs. Jack Green, Tex., president-elect; Mrs. Brad Thompson, Tex., assistant secretary-treasurer; and Mrs. Wynn.

Dennis Lyle of Nashville, Tenn., was the guest speaker and Danny Prater of Columbus was the Bible leader for the Senior Celebration Sept. 6 to 8 for the L.L.L. Club of First Church, Columbus. More than 100 attended a banquet on Friday evening; and the Saturday sessions included Bible study, singing, games, and lunch. The senior adult choir sang on Sunday morning.

N. E. Sumrall was elected as the new president of the organization. The vice-president is Harriet Barnes, the

secretary-treasurer is Lib Tyler, the associate secretary-treasurer is Alice Duckworth, and the reporter is Alta Spivey.

W. Wilson Henderson is the club director.

Melody Nowell, 1985 youth speakers tournament winner, will give her speech, "How I Am Developing as a Believer," in the evening worship service, Sunday, Oct. 20, at Clarksdale Church, Clarksdale.

As the Mississippi winner, Melody represented her state at Ridgecrest

Conference Center, Ridgecrest, N.C. this past summer and gave the speech in one of the conference sessions.

She is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Pat Nowell, Tunica, where her father is pastor of First Church. She is a senior at Tunica Institute of Learning.

Dan Wilemon, his wife, Ann, and daughters, Shonda and Shea were recently honored with Pastor Appreciation Day. Wilemon is in his third year as pastor of Parkway Church, Houston, Chickasaw County. The church presented the Wilemon's with a new recliner, gift certificate and



Wilemon plaque.



Harold Lollar (right), recently celebrated 15 years as pastor of Pine Forest Church, Lauderdale Association. Sidney Thompson, (left), is the new minister of music and youth effective Sept. 15. He goes to Pine Forest Church after three years as pastor of Union Church, Kemper County. A graduate of William Carey College, Thompson and his wife, Zona, are the parents of three children.

Homecomings

McCool Church, McCool, homecoming Oct. 27 and revival continuing until Oct. 30. Jack Stanley, Havenwood Church, Mobile, evangelist; dinner on the grounds on Sunday and singing in the afternoon led by the Believers Quartet from Philadelphia, Miss.; Mike Howell, pastor.

Mt. Carmel (Leake): homecoming, Oct. 20; Levon Moore, director of missions, Attala Association and former pastor of Mt. Carmel; lunch served following morning service; afternoon singing by Gospel Praise, Jackson; Sonny Kelly, pastor.

Mount Vernon (Newton): homecoming and noteburning, Oct. 20; Sunday School, 9:55 a.m.; morning worship, 11 a.m.; dinner on the grounds, afternoon service and noteburning at 2 p.m.; John D. West, former pastor, guest speaker; Bill Hutto, pastor.

Calvary Church, Braxton: homecoming, Oct. 20; dinner on the ground; guest speaker will be former pastor, Vance Dyess; Sunday School 9:50 a.m., worship service 11; musical program in afternoon; Henry Bennett, pastor; no evening service.

Gooden Lake, Belzoni: homecoming, Oct. 20; Sunday School, 10:10:30; church service, 10:30-11:30; lunch will follow in fellowship hall.

Harrisville, Harrisville: homecoming, Oct. 20; Sunday School, 9:45 a.m.; 11 a.m. worship service, Larry Hill, pastor, preaching; fellowship lunch, noon; 1:00 p.m., special singing by church talent; 2:00 p.m., former pastor Tommy Anderson, homecoming message; after service, old-fashioned singing for all around the piano.

New Hope (Leake): homecoming, Oct. 27; Sunday School, 10 a.m. to be followed by worship service, 11 a.m.; Leroy Callahan, pastor of Coteau, Houma, La., speaker, Callahan was pastor at New Hope in 1962-63; lunch served in fellowship hall following worship service; James H. Young, Jr., pastor at New Hope; David Pickel, music director.

First Church, Shannon (Lee): harvest day, Nov. 3; morning worship service; Ira Bright, Pollock, Tex., message; followed by lunch in fellowship hall; Jim Armstrong, pastor.

Oloh, Lamar: homecoming, Oct. 20; Joe Hasson, Jackson, guest speaker; Charlie Stillman, music; dinner on grounds; afternoon, 1:30, Wings of Eagle, University of Southern Mississippi; Tim Patrick, pastor.

Just for the Record

The Sons of Faith will be in concert at Jerusalem Church (Attala County), Saturday, Oct. 19, 7 p.m.

Pray for MKs

Oct. 27 — Patricia Harbin, Brazil, USM

Nov. 4 — Amy Frederick, Guadeloupe, USM

No rewards are offered for finding faults.

Wisdom consists of passing no nonessentials.



McCool Baptist Church

McCool, Miss.

Homecoming Revival

Oct. 27

Oct. 27-30

Evangelist Jack Stanley

Havenwood Baptist Church, Mobile, Ala.

Oct. 27

Dinner on the grounds and

Singing in the afternoon

Believers Quartet, Philadelphia, Ms.

Mike Howell, Pastor

Praising God for my salvation

Exodus 14:29-15:2; 15:11-13, 17-18

I. God's action

For Christians the heart of the Bible is found in the crucifixion-resurrection narratives of the gospels. For the Israelites the heart of the Old Testament was found right here in our scripture passage. Just as we Christians point back to the cross as the place where our salvation was won, the Israelites looked back to the shores of the Red Sea where God destroyed their enemies and set them free. For the Israelites, salvation history reached its greatest heights here.

Salvation for Israel was grounded in history. Note the use of terminology

designed to call human senses to bear witness to God's saving action: Israel walked through the sea with the waters divided (v. 29), Israel saw the dead Egyptians who had tried to follow (v. 30), Israel saw the great work of God against Egypt (v. 31a), Israel feared the Lord (v. 31b), and Israel believed in the Lord (v. 31b). All these verbs point to the historical events which God used to save Israel.

Our salvation is also grounded in historical events. Jesus of Nazareth was actually born into our world, lived in Palestine, died on a Roman cross, and was raised from a cemetery. Many witnesses testify to these historical events. Salvation is

By David W. Spencer

more than an exercise of the mind through meditation or the like. We serve a God who actually became involved in the historical situation. Our faith is based upon a real person and not some philosophical treatise. Our God is real and he is involved in the life of our world!

II. The people's reaction

Most of our focal passage deals with the response of Moses and Israel after they saw the great saving work of God. How should redeemed people act?

1. They fear God (14:31). This means they have a great reverential awe of the Lord who could do such a mighty deed.

2. They believe in the Lord (14:31). Here again is the great word believe, have faith, or lean on which we saw in Abram's life last week. In this experience at the Red Sea, Israel learned to lean on the Lord for support and to depend upon him in all circumstances.

III. The song of praise

After the great salvation experience at the Red Sea, it only seemed natural for the people to praise God! Singing grows out of a thankful heart. When we don't feel like singing the great hymns of praise to our God, perhaps it's because we're not really feeling thankful for our salvation. Look closely at the word salvation in 15:2. That

Hebrew word which means "Yahweh saves" is the basis for the New Testament name Jesus! This is why the angel of the Lord informed Joseph that Mary's Child would be called Jesus, "for he will save his people from their sins" (Matthew 1:21).

The song of praise continues through 15:18. It closes with the benediction, "The Lord will reign forever and ever." Now, think for a moment. This great song of praise was elicited by God's saving actions. After God saves us, our purpose is to praise him in all that we think, or say, or do forever and ever!

Spencer is pastor, First, Long Beach.

False prophets condemned

By J. Gerald Harris

ning the eminent return of Christ and the reality of the coming judgment is largely ignored. Even in the professing church the second coming of Christ is often just a doctrine to be studied but not a hope to be anticipated. To the first Christians it was their "blessed hope."

The secular world and the apostate church may lull themselves into a false sense of peace, scorn the idea of the eminent, visible return of Christ, howl and laugh at the truth of the day of judgment, sneer at the establishment of Christ's kingdom on this earth, and declare "every vision faileth," but we know that the Word of God cannot be bound or broken.

II. The description (13:3-6) — In these verses Ezekiel describes the false prophets. The use of the adjective "foolish" to describe them indicates that they are blind to spiritual

things and truly irresponsible.

These false prophets are described as men who speak words which are the products of their own heart and spirit, but yet declare that the message is from God. This is the worse form of dishonesty and deceit.

Then these prophets are likened to foxes in the desert. In the Song of Solomon we read that vineyards were plenteous in that time and place and that foxes often damaged the vines. They would do this by not only devouring the grapes but by making holes in the walls and fences and making the vineyard vulnerable to other ravening beasts. This is precisely how the false prophets operated. With their crafty speeches and cunningly devised fables they misled the people and destroyed their confidence in the true Word of God.

III. The denunciation (13:9-10a) — The Lord denounces the false pro-

phets and declares that they shall not return to the land of Israel. They will be excluded from community privileges and shall not be written in the new registry for citizens. In essence, they are being outlawed and excommunicated from membership with the people of God.

It is written, "If any man defile the temple of God, him shall God destroy; for the temple of God is holy, which temple ye are" (I Cor. 3:17). Under the new covenant the temple of God is the church, the redeemed of God. The foundation of the church is the truth of God, the doctrine of Christ. If anyone changes this doctrine or preaches another gospel he is accursed (Gal. 1:6-9). It is an awesome thing to stand up as a representative of God to declare his message.

Harris is pastor, Colonial Heights, Jackson.

The church in conflict with culture

By Anthony S. Kay

I. **Corinthians 10:6-14,31 to 11:1**
Can you imagine? To eat or not to eat was the big question of the day. This situation reminds me of one of my father's sayings: "Sometimes I think, well; and other times I just plain don't know." Our lesson this week shows us a perplexed church in search of some answers. Paul, as he often did, had some suggestions for them. Let's look at the perplexing problem, the probable freedom and the potential solution, as Paul develops the theme.

church in east Tennessee where my brother-in-law was pastor. The meal after church, graciously provided and prepared by two lovely ladies, was more than I thought I could eat. It called for the three of us to eat food we did not want, but eat we did in order that we not offend those dear ladies. Missionaries tell of their experiences and how they are able to do similar things in order to win people to Christ. Knowledge gives freedom. Freedom does not necessarily produce Christlike conduct.

The probable freedom — "Free at last" could be the battle cry of the Christian — free from the tyranny of sin, the legal cares of the past, etc. In theory maybe, in fact hardly. Paul points out that freedom does not mean license. Christians of all generations are free. They are free to eat any kind of food, but the exercise of such freedom may become a stumbling block for weaker Christians. Sometimes we must eat things we don't enjoy and at other times refrain from eating some things that offend others.

The beauty of Christian freedom is the opportunity it affords Christians to become the servants of others. "Am

I my brother's keeper?" Cain asked. We might ask, "Am I not free?"

Paul says yes, but I choose to make myself a servant in order to win people to Christ. "Food will not commend us to God because eating the correct food does not have any special value before God. Men are commended to God when they live by the law of love, not when they keep food laws, which practice becomes a source of self-salvation, which is impossible. It is not the food men eat but the love they show others that commends them to God. Abstinence from food does not bring men to God, and eating it does not separate them from God. The pride of the mature and the immature is seen as specious in the light of a mature understanding of the Christian faith" (Broadman Commentary, Vol. 10, p. 339). Love is the answer to the perplexing question. Love never fails. When in doubt, love the brethren.

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